GESNERIADS

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 60, No. 1 First Quarter 2010

Columnea species

The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri

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Gesneriad Hybridizers Association — *CrossWords,* 3 issues, $8 ($9 outside USA). Send to Martha Lacy, 260 Stoddards Wharf Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335 <wlacy@snet.net>.

Newsletter Editors — *Newsviews,* free to editors; $6 subscription to others. Contact Leslie Milde, 373 Main St., P.O. Box 14, Fremont, NH 03044 <meribush@aol.com>

Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group — Visit the website for instructions about joining the list: <http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/gesneriphiles>

British Streptocarpus Society — <www.streptocarpussociety.org.uk> To join from the USA/Canada send $12 check payable to Dale Martens, 1247 Island View Dr., Sherrard, Illinois 61281. To join from any other country, send £8 or 12€ to Peter Pinches, 72 Coopers Rd., Handsworth, Birmingham, England B20 2JX.

Gesneriad Research Center at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens — 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 (914-366-5731) <www.selby.org> GRC Director: Dr. John R. Clark, PO Box 48721, Sarasota, FL 34230 <johnrobertclark@gmail.com>

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Fourth Quarter ..... July 1

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY — The objects of The Gesneriad Society are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads, to stimulate a widespread interest in, gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture and propagation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars.

GESNERIAD REGISTRATION — The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for the names and cultivars of gesneriads excepting the genus *Saintpaulia*. Any person desiring to register a cultivar should contact Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, CT 06068 <hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org>.

www.gesneriadsociety.org

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COVER
Columnea species JRC11000 discovered on the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition to Ecuador (photo by John L. Clark)

President's Message

Peter Shalit <president@gesneriadsociety.org>
Seattle, Washington, USA

Welcome to another year of GESNERIADS! As usual our Editor, Jeanne Katzenstein, works hard to make our journal better with each issue. I hope you are enjoying all the color we've been able to add, thanks to our new printing process. We've had requests for more articles for beginners. Fortunately Dale Martens, an excellent and enthusiastic teacher, will be writing a series of columns on basic gesneriad culture, starting with this issue.

Our journal continues to give in-depth attention to individual genera of gesneriads. *Episcia* was the focus two issues ago. That issue is a bible for *Episcia* growers. We have printed an extra supply and they are available on our Website. This issue features the smaller, allied genus *Alsobia*. If your growing conditions are too cool for Episcias to survive, you should try Alsobias as they are much more cold-tolerant. I'm currently growing all three available species (*A. dianthiflora*, *A. punctata*, and *A.* sp. "Chiapas"). I find them easy to grow, and their soft green leaves and crazy fringed flowers are a lot of fun. Alsobias are easy to grow from seed which is available in our Seed Fund.

The 2009 Gesneriad Register, documenting every known species and hybrid in the genera *Episcia* and *Alsobia*, is now available. As with the 2008 *Achimenes* Register, we have included full-color reproductions of botanical prints. Every gesneriad grower should own a copy. You can purchase yours via our Webstore or by sending $8 to Gesneriad Society Publications at the Society's address.

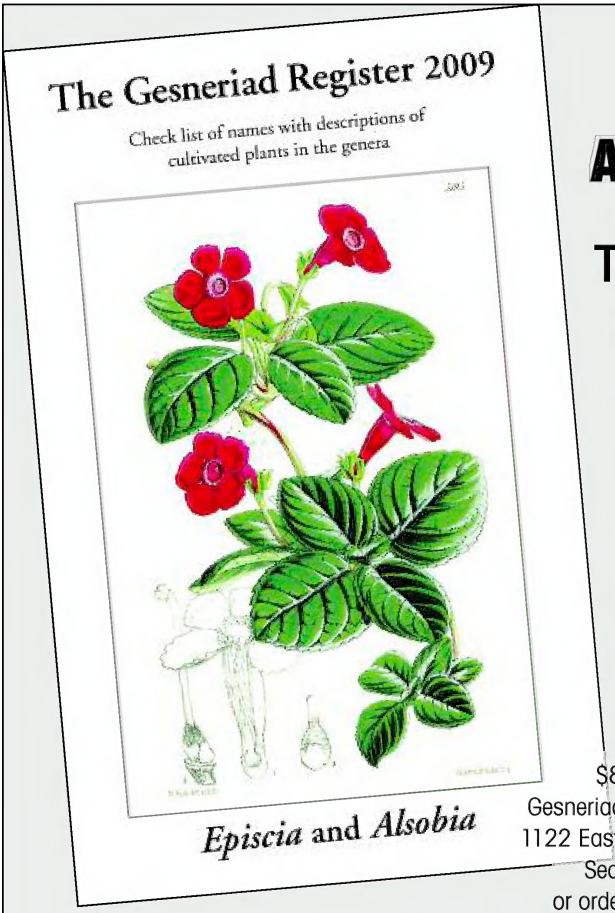
Finally, I am once again updating the Presidential Blog which has been dormant for a while. Check it out at <gezprez.blogspot.com>.

Good growing,

Peter

Alsobia dianthiflora exhibited by Mary Bozoian at the 2001 Convention flower show (photo by Dale Martens)

Alsobia dianthiflora on display as a topiary teddy bear at the Chicago Botanic Garden (Convention 1999)


The Gesneriad Register 2009
Check list of names with descriptions of cultivated plants in the genera
Episcia and Alsobia

Now Available

The 2009 Register for *Episcia* and *Alsobia*

$8 postpaid from Gesneriad Society Publications, 1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122; or order from our Website, **www.gesneriadsociety.org**

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The color photos on pages 38, 39, 45, and 48 sponsored by participants on the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition

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Seed Fund

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Another year has passed and we are making lists of new plants and trying different ways to grow our gesneriads. From the many emails about the new types of fluorescent tubes for light gardens, it appears that many of us are trying to improve our indoor growing conditions and lower energy costs. I've been experimenting with Leca stones, Oyama pots, and even trying wick watering again. It's clear that there is no single "correct" way to grow our plants with so many variables of climate, heating systems, soil mixes, and plant types. Don't be afraid to experiment with something new but use your duplicate plants and not the ones that will be hard to replace.

The Seed Fund continues to do a brisk business and we do run out of popular items from time to time. That's why it is important for members to list some alternate choices when ordering. Please don't forget to enclose a self-addressed envelope with each order. You know your address, but it can be quite difficult for us to decipher it in a hastily handwritten order, and writing envelopes takes valuable time away from the business of filling orders.

New species and hybrids continue to be discovered and introduced by our intrepid plant hunters. We heard about Sinningias, Petrocosmeas, and Cyrtandras at convention, as well as some lesser-known genera from faraway places. We will try to get seeds of as many of these as possible for those who want the challenge of growing something new. Even so, the most popular plants on species orders continue to be the micro-mini Sinningias.

The success of the Seed Fund depends on our getting donations of fresh seed of as many gesneriads as possible. Please confirm the identification of your plants, especially if sending in species seed. There are now many sources of species photographs available, so check the appearance of your plant against those sources to be certain that what you have is what is written on the label! Just because you got a plant with a name label, doesn't guarantee that it is the correct name. We see plants exhibited and sold at shows, in catalogs, on eBay, and even at convention, that have been misidentified. Those members who are growing gesneriads outdoors or where the birds and bees frolic, may be at risk for inadvertent hybridization of their plants with pollen from a different species or hybrid that is growing nearby. If your species seed grows out a plant that does look like what it is supposed to be, please notify us right away.

Seed Packets — $2.00 each

Please
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa ($6.00 minimum)
- Make checks payable to the The Gesneriad Society in U.S. funds
- Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (non-U.S. orders will have the postage added to their credit card bill)
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

Note
- There is a limit of one seed packet of a single variety per order
- There is a limit of 25 seed packets per order
- There is a household limit of 50 seed packets per calendar year

Recent donations from the following are helping the Seed Fund grow: Marlene Beam, Karyn Cichocki, Vilma Dallas, Jacquie Eisenhut, Rohm Gustafson, Charles Hart, Nancy Kast, Alan LaVergne, Lars Loercher, Jo Anne Martinez, Barbara Matthews, Mauro Peixoto, Carolyn Ripps, Peter Shalit, and MJ Tyler.

Send orders for species seed to:

Carolyn Ripps, 21 Sprain Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530

Seed Fund – Species

Achimenes (D)
admirabilis
cettoana (B)
erecta (B)
erecta 'Tiny Red' (F,L)
• *grandiflora* 'Robert Dressler' (B)
longiflora (B)
longiflora alba (B)
mexicana (B)
skinneri W1897 (B)
Aeschynanthus (B)
batakiorum
• *boschianus*
evrardii
fecundus SEL1974-2907-A
fulgens USBRG82-271
• *garrettii* (B)
gracilis 'Pagoda Roof'
• *hartleyi*
humilis USBRG94-214
hosseusii
lobbianus 'Radicans'
longicalyx
longiflorus
• *musaensis*
parvifolius
sp. MSBG87-162
• sp. Cameron Highlands
• sp. Mt. Batupasak HW12587
sp. (red) / Philippines
• sp. (like slender *longicalyx*)
Agalmyla
• *parasitica* HW12714/Mt. Salak (B)
Alsobia (B)
dianthiflora
• *punctata*
Amalophyllon (D,H,L)
• *clarkii* USBRG 96-336
divaricatum (*Phinaea divaricata*)
• *rupestre* RM2006-1 /Belize
Anodiscus (see *Gloxinia*)
Besleria
comosa JLC9931 (T)
laxiflora GRF9675 (M)
melancholica (MT)
• *solanoides* GRE10975 (G,T)
cf. *divaricata* JLC5629
• sp. JLC5705
• sp. JLC6113
Boea
hemsleyana
• *hygroscopica*
Briggsia (A,R)
• *aurantiaca*
muscicola
• species #2
Chirita
caliginosa (LM)
• *eburnea* (blue) (F,R)
flavimaculata USBRG94-085 (R)
• *gemella*
• *hamosa* (F,M)
involucrata (F,L)
• *involucrata* (dark blue)
lavandulacea (LM)
• *longgangensis*
• *lutea* (formerly *C. eburnea* yellow) (F,R)
micromusa (F,L)
• *pumila* (F,L)
• *pumila* USBRG2000-18 (F,LM)
• *sericea* (L,R)
• *spadiciformis* (L,R)
• *subrhomboidea* (F,R,L)
tamiana USBRG98-080 (F,R,P)
• *viola*
• species (Thailand)
• species (blue) from Phuket
Chrysothemis (F,LM)
friedrichsthaliana
• *pulchella* (Ecuador)
villosa
Codonanthe (B)
calcarata 'Puyo'
crassifolia
crassifolia 'Cranberry'
devosiana (*digna*)
devosiana (*paula*)
devosiana (pink) MP0018
devosiana SEL 1997-0120A
• *erubescens* ABG 89-0836 (B)
gracilis
gracilis 'Kautsky Red Leaf' MP0016
• *venosa*

Columnea (B)
ambigua (*Trichantha*) 'El Yunque' WEK96163
angustata (*Pentadenia*)
brenneri JLC9833
byrsina (*Pentadenia*) (L)
citriflora (*Trichantha citrina*)
crassicaulis (*Pentadenia*)
crassifolia
• *dodsonii*
eburnea (*Dalbergaria*)
fawcettii
• *filamentosa* (*Trichantha filifera*) JLC6500
flexiflora (*Trichantha dodsonii*) (LM)
glicensteinii
hirta
• *inaequilatera* (*Dalbergaria*) JLC6072
• *lehmannii* GRE11180
• *linearis*
maculata
• *oerstediana*
orientandina (*Pentadenia*) (LM)
ornata (*Dalbergaria*) GRF2665
oxyphylla
polyantha (*Dalbergaria*)
• *purpurimarginata* GRE11180
purpusii
• *rubriacuta* GRE11195
sanguinea (*Dalbergaria*)
sanguinea (*Dalbergaria*) 'Orange King' GRF9492
sanguinea (*Dalbergaria*) (yellow)
scandens var. *fendleri*
schiedeana
• *schiedeana* 'Huatusco' (yellow) (B)
spathulata (*Pentadenia*) GRF9503 (LM)
spathulata (*Pentadenia microsepala*) W1837
spathulata (*Pentadenia zapotalana*)
strigosa (*Pentadenia*) GRF95154
sulfurea
• *tandapiana*
• *tenella* GRE11199
• sp. aff *picta* GRE11104
Coronanthera
• *grandis* JRC727
Corytoplectus
cutucuensis (L)
cutucuensis GRF9794
speciosus JLC9969
Crantzia
tigrina
Cremosperma
castroanum GRE11056 (L,H)
Cyrtandra
cupulata (G,H,MT)
subulibractea JRC788 (T)
• sp. (white) /Java (T)
Dalbergaria (see *Columnea*)
Diastema (D,F,P)
affine JLC9964
racemiferum JLC9824
vexans
Didymocarpus
• *cordatus* (G,T)
• *sulfureus*
Drymonia
affinis GRF98109
chiribogana
coccinea GRF9873
coccinea JLC9980 (T)
coccinea var. *fusco-maculatus*
• *conchocalyx* 'Silver Lance' (T)
• *coriacea* GRE11039
doratostyla GRF9674 (B)
hoppii JLC9863
macrophylla (M)
mortoniana (L)
pulchra GRF98113
rhodoloma ABG90-0528
serrulata (B)
serrulata GRF9752
strigosa (B)
• cf. *ecuadorensis* JLC6185
sp. (*umecta* ined.) (B)
Episcia (H,L,B,F)
• *xantha*
• *cupreata*
Epithema
sp. / N. Perak (M)
sp. (blue) /N. Perak (M)
Gasteranthus
• *atratus*
• *calcaratus* JLC9867
• *villosus* JLC9620
• *wendlandianus* JLC9868 (H,M)
Gesneria (H,F)
acaulis (M)
christii
citrina
• *cuneifolia* (L)
• *cuneifolia* 'Quebradillas' (L)
cuneifolia 'Tom Talpey' (H,F,L)
humilis
pedunculosa USBRG97-102 (S,T)
• *rupincola*
ventricosa (M)
Glossoloma (Alloplectus)
bolivianum USBRG95-140 (M)
ichthyoderma JLC9836 (T)
scandens GRE11235
cf. *panamense* GRE11118
Gloxinella (Gloxinia) (D)
lindeniana (F,L)
Gloxinia (D)
perennis (LM)

perennis 'Insignis' (L)
xanthophylla (*Anodiscus*) (M)
***Gloxiniopsis* (*Gloxinia*)** (D)
racemosa (L)
Haberlea (A,R)
rhodopensis
Hemiboea (D)
• *strigosa*
subcapitata (L)
Henckelia
• *albomarginata* (H)
• *hispida* (H)
• *malayana* (H,M)
• sp. LTL0406 (LM,R)
Heppiella (D)
ulmifolia GRF98172
Kohleria (D)
allenii (T)
hirsuta
peruviana
spicata (M)
Monophyllaea
horsfieldii (U)
Monopyle
macrocarpa GRE11241
Nautilocalyx
adenosiphon
• *mellitifolius*
Nematanthus
albus (sp. "Santa Teresa") (B)
australis (B)
• *brasiliensis*
fissus GRF9938
• *fluminensis*
fornix
• *fritschii*
• *punctatus* MP0052
• *sericeus* (B)
• *strigillosus* 'Ibitioca' (B)
wettsteinii (B)
Neomortonia
nummularia
rosea (P,H)
Nomopyle
• *dodsonii* (*Gloxinia*) JLC9645
Orchadocarpa
• *lilacina*
Opithandra
• *primuloides*
Ornithoboea
arachnoidea
wildeana (LM)
Paraboea
• *capitata*
• sp. (green leaf)
Paliavana (S,T)
prasinata
prasinata GRF732
• *plumerioides* (Cabral)
tenuiflora
Paradrymonia
• *ciliosa*
decurrens (L)
• sp. JLC5731 (F,P)
Pentadenia (see *Columnea*)
Phinaea (D,F,P)
albolineata
multiflora 'Tracery'
Primulina
• *tabacum* (F,L,R)
Ramonda (A,R)
• *myconi*
myconi —
white
lavender
pink
• clone G
Rhabdothamnus
solandri (G,T)
Rhynchoglossum (H,L)
gardneri
Rhytidophyllum (G,H,S,T)
auriculatum
tomentosum
villosulum
Ridleyandra
• *morganii*
• *quercifolia*
Rufodorsia (F,LM)
• *minor*
Saintpaulia (F,R)
3. *shumensis*
• 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 299
5b. cl. *difficilis* Mather No. 2
• 5b. cl. *grotei* Protzen
5b. cl. *grotei* Silvert (F,L,R)
• 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Punter No. 7
• 5f. cl. *orbicularis*
• 8. *rupicola* cl. Cha Simba
***Seemannia* (*Gloxinia*)** (D)
• *purpurascens* (Bolivia) (M)
gymnostoma (LM)
nematanthodes
sylvatica
Sinningia (D)
aggregata (M)
• *aggregata* 'Pendulina' (D)
aghensis (T)
aghensis AC2356
allagophylla (MT)
allagophylla GRF9922
allagophylla GRF9929
allagophylla GRF9968
allagophylla (yellow)
• *amambayensis* (L)
• *araneosa* (F,L)

brasiliensis (M)
brasiliensis 'Verde'
brasiliensis AC1314
bulbosa (T)
calcaria MP891 (F,L)
canescens (D,LM)
carangolensis (M)
cardinalis (F,LM)
cardinalis (compact) (F,LM)
cardinalis (dark calyx) (LM)
• *cardinalis* (orange)
cardinalis peloric mix
cardinalis (pink)
cardinalis 'Innocent'
• *cardinalis* 'Skydiver' (LM)
cochlearis
conspicua (F,L)
conspicua GRF 9942
cooperi (LM)
cooperi AC1522 (M)
curtiflora (T)
curtiflora GRF9927
defoliata
douglasii GRF91188 (LM)
douglasii GRF9936 (LM)
elatior AC1409 (M)
elatior GRF9963
eumorpha /Saltao (L)
eumorpha (lavender) (F,L)
eumorpha (pink)
eumorpha (white)
gigantifolia
glazioviana (L)
• *guttata* (LM)
harleyi MP 482
hatschbachii (L)
hatschbachii 'Iporanga' (D,LM)
• *hirsuta*
iarae (F,L)
• *incarnata* (S,MT)
insularis (LM)
leopoldii (F,L)
leucotricha (F,L)
• *leucotricha (pink)*
leucotricha cv. 'Max Dekking' (M)
leucotricha "English"
lineata (LM)
lineata GRF9920 (LM)
lineata (highly spotted)
macrophylla
macropoda (M)
macrostachya (LM)
magnifica GRF91121 (pink) (LM)
magnifica GRF91134 (red)
• *mauroana* (D,M)
micans MP891 (LM)
nivalis AC1460 (L)
nordestina
piresiana (L)
polyantha (formerly sp. "Waechter") (L,M)
• *pusilla* (F,P)
• *pusilla* (Itaoca) (F,P)
• *pusilla* 'White Sprite' (F,P)
reitzii (M)
reitzii 'New Zealand'
sceptrum (T)
sceptrum AC2406 (T)
sellovii (MT)
sellovii GRF9919
sellovii 'Bolivia' USBRG96-003
• *sellovii* 'Purple Rain'
• *speciosa* 'Cabo Frio' (F,L)
speciosa 'Carangola'
speciosa 'Domingos Martins'
• *speciosa* 'Lavender Queen'
speciosa 'Regina'
speciosa 'Sao Conrado'
• *speciosa* AC1503
speciosa AC1652
sulcata (LM)
tubiflora (S,MT)
tuberosa
warmingii (T)
warmingii GRF9921
sp. aff. *aggregata* (yellow) (M)
sp. aff. *aggregata* / Ilhabella MP631
• sp. aff. *reitzii* 'Black Hill' (M)
sp. aff. *reitzii* GRF9914 (magenta)
• sp. aff. *warmingii* 'Esmeril' (L)
• sp. "Florianopolis" (L,M)
• sp. "Gertiana"
• sp. "Globulosa"
• sp. "Ibitioca" (LM)
sp. "Rio das Pedras" MP1094 (F,P)
• sp. "Rio das Pedras" dark (F,P)
sp. "Rio das Pedras" (light) (F,P)
sp. "Santa Teresa" (D,P,F)
mixed species

Smithiantha (D,F,M)
• *canarina* GRF9105
• *laui*
multiflora
• *multiflora* GRF9121
• *multiflora* GRF9122
• *zebrina* GRF9104

Streptocarpus
buchananii (B)
candidus (F,R)
confusus (U)
• *confusus* ssp. *confusus* /Swaziland
cooksonii (dark purple)
cooperi (U)
cyanandrus (F,P)
• *cyaneus* (blue) (R)
• *cyaneus* (blue/long corolla)

- *cyaneus* (lilac)
  daviesii (F,U)
  denticulatus (U)
- *dunnii* (U)
  eylesii (U)
  fanniniae (R)
  fasciatus (R)
  fasciatus /Krokodilpoort, E. Transvaal (R)
  floribundus (R)
  formosus (R)
  formosus /E. Cape, Transkei
  galpinii
  gardenii (F,L)
  glandulosissimus
  goetzei (U)
  grandis (U)
  grandis (blue form)
  grandis ssp. *grandis*
  haygarthii (F,U)
- *haygarthii* JT04-03D/Transkei Coast (F,U)
  haygarthii JT04-051/Inchanga (U)
  haygarthii /Mkambati, Transkei (U)
  holstii (B,L)
  johannis (F,R)
  johannis /Komga, E. Cape
  johannis /Weza, S. Natal (R)
  sp. aff. *johannis* (F,R)
  kentaniensis
- *kentaniensis* (N. Kei River)
  kirkii (F,L)
- *kunhardtii*
- *lilliputana*
- *meyeri* /SE Transvaal (R)
  meyeri /NE Cape Province
  modestus (R)
- *modestus* /Magwa Falls, Transkei (R)
  molweniensis
  muscosus (L)
  nobilis (M)
  pallidiflorus (F,LM)
  parviflorus (R)
  parviflorus (mauve)
- *parviflorus* (white) (R)
  parviflorus (white/mauve)
- *parviflorus* ssp. *parviflorus* /Limpopo Province
  pentherianus (F,L)
  polyanthus (F,L)
  polyanthus subsp. *comptonii*
  polyanthus subsp. *dracomontanus*
  polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus*
  polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus* /lg fl
  polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus* /Valley of 1000 Hills, Natal
  porphyrostachys (U)
  primulifolius (F,R)
  primulifolius /Valley of 1000 Hills
  prolixus (F,U)
  pumilus (F,P)
- *pusillus* JT04-02C (P)
  rexii (white)
  rexii (pale blue/long corolla)
  rexii (white/blue mix)
  rimicola (F,P)
  roseoalbus (F,R)
  saundersii (U)
  saxorum (B)
  thompsonii (B,L)
  trabeculatus (U)
- *vandeleurii* (U)
  variabilis (F,R)
  wendlandii (U)
  wilmsii (U)
  wilmsii /Long Tom Pass (U)

Titanotrichum
oldhamii (propagules)

Tremacron
- *aurantiacum* (R)

Trichantha (see *Columnea*)

Vanhouttea (S,T)
- *brueggeri*
  lanata
- *pendula*

Mixed alpine gesneriads

Mixed gesneriad species

- Limited quantities available. Packet may contain small amount of seed

Seed Fund Key

(A)	Alpine or cool greenhouse	(LM)	Low to medium height
(B)	Suitable for hanging basket	(M)	Medium height; 1 to 2 feet
(D)	Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes	(MT)	Medium to tall
(F)	Blooms readily in fluorescent light	(P)	Petite or miniature; under 6"
(G)	Recommended for greenhouses; requires space	(R)	Rosette in form
(H)	Requires humidity and warmth	(S)	Requires sun to bloom
(L)	Low growing; not more than 12"	(T)	Tall plants; generally over 3 feet
		(U)	Unifoliate or single leaf
		(V)	Leaves may be variegated

How *Chirita viola* and *Chirita hamosa* Appeared in the Seed Fund

Leong Tuck Lock <tucklock@pd.jaring.my>
Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

These two pretty species of *Chirita* Section *Microchirita* are from a tropical climate and grew for me and eventually flowered. This is the story of how the two species came to me and eventually became listings in the Seed Fund.

***Chirita viola* –** This species is found in the Langkawi Islands and now is also found in parts of Perlis, the most northern of the Malaysian States. Friends of mine had taken photos of this pretty little gesneriad years ago, but no one came back with seeds or plants. A few years ago a friend, while doing research work in Langkawi, heard that I was keen on this species. Some weeks later, the friend appeared with a handful of soil taken from the limestone hills where this species grew.

The handful of soil was scattered onto potting mix in a shallow pot and watered. After a few weeks, small seedlings appeared and, indeed, they were Chiritas. The plants flowered when they were just a few centimetres tall. The plants ranged from 2 to 5 cm (.8 to 2") at this stage. The flowers confirmed they were *Chirita viola*. Since then, seeds have been saved, more plants grown, and their seeds sent off to the Seed Fund.

***Chirita hamosa* –** I obtained this from a very different route. I bought some orchid bulbs (*Habenaria*) from a vendor who said the bulbs were from Thailand. The bulbs took their time to sprout and eventually grew into small plants. At the base of these Habenarias, I saw the small seedling of a species of *Chirita*. Usually, such seedlings are pulled out. (I have *Chirita involucrata* surfacing all over the garden and even in pot plants.) For some unknown reason, I did not pull out this particular seedling.

As it grew, I noted that the plant differed from *Chirita involucrata* and even *Chirita caliginosa*. The leaves were also dissimilar and so were the stems and growth habit, too. I had some anxious moments waiting for the first buds to appear. The white flowers showed that I had something new, and so I turned to the reference books. I made a quick check in *African Violets, Gloxinias, and their relatives* by Harold E. Moore, Jr. From this, I deduced that, in form, it is *C. hamosa*. However, the description by Moore indicated "pale blue or almost rosy corolla." A second reference book, *A Revision of Chirita* (Gesneriaceae) by D. Wood, states that this species is widely distributed from India to Vietnam and then going south to the Malay Peninsula. A white form of *C. hamosa* is described from Vietnam.

I asked the vendor for the origin of the orchid bulbs and later it was reluctantly confirmed that they came from Vietnam. The *Habenaria* plants soon flowered and they turned out to be *H. erichmichaelii*, which is a species from Vietnam. To be certain of the *Chirita* species, I sent a photo to Dr. Anton Weber and he confirmed it to be *Chirita hamosa*.

Therefore, this *Chirita hamosa* came piggyback on the bulbs of *Habenaria erichmichaelii* and it grew for me. It was from this single plant that I obtained seeds and they were distributed to several people as well as to the Seed Fund.

Chirita viola

Chirita hamosa

(grown and photographed by Leong Tuck Lock)

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The Genus *Alsobia*

Laurence E. Skog & Jeanne Katzenstein

This small genus has been split from the genus *Episcia*. Alsobias enjoy heat but also tolerate cooler temperatures than Episcias. The leaves are small and rather pale green, sometimes with darker veins. The flowers are white, with a distinctive fringe, and sometimes have green or purple spots. There are two published species of *Alsobia*: *A. dianthiflora* (a creeping, stoloniferous plant with large, fringed white flowers); and *A. punctata* (larger, coarser, and somewhat erect, with speckled flowers). A third, as yet unnamed species from the Mexican state of Chiapas, is a small shrubby plant with fringed, green-spotted flowers; it does not appear to form stolons. There is also a possible fourth species, recently discovered in Belize, that resembles *A. punctata* but lacks the corolla fringe. Here is a more complete picture of the genus.

Establishment of the Genus: *Alsobia* Hanst., Linnaea 26: 207 (April 1854, "1853").

Etymology (history of the word): Hanstein gave no explanation for his name *Alsobia*. Probably from the Greek, alsos, n. = forest, grove, and bios, m. = life.

Synonyms: *Episcia* sect. *Alsobia* (Hanst.) Benth. (1876). *Episcia* sect. *Episcia* subsect. *Alsobia* (Hanst.) Leeuwenb. (1958).

Placement of the Genus: Family Gesneriaceae, subfamily Gesnerioideae, tribe Episcieae.

Geographical Distribution: Southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and possibly Costa Rica.

Habitat: Plants can be found in humid mountain forests, on slopes, limestone outcrops and steep-walled canyons, at about 1300 to 1600 m.

Habit: Succulent, usually stoloniferous herbs, and often epiphytic.

Pollinators: None are known, but bees are suspected.

Chromosome number: 2n = 18.

Number of Published Species: 2

Type Species: *Alsobia punctata* (Lindl.) Hanst.

Earliest Illustration: 1844: *A. punctata* (as *Drymonia punctata*) in Curtis's Botanical Magazine 70: pl. 4089.

Common names: None known.

Selected References:

Wiehler, H. 1978. The genera *Episcia, Alsobia, Nautilocalyx*, and *Paradrymonia*. Selbyana 5: 11-60, rev.

Alsobia punctata (photo from the collection of Hans Wiehler)

Alsobia dianthiflora (photo from the collection of Hans Wiehler)

Alsobia species growing in situ in Mexico (photo by A. Lau, courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution)

Alsobia sp. "Chiapas" awarded Best in Show at the 1996 Convention exhibited by Peggy DePhillippo (photo by Al Wojcik)

Alsobia hybrid (*A. punctata* × *A.* sp. "Chiapas") created by John Boggan (grown and photographed by Ron Myhr)

Alsobia dianthiflora variegated (grown by Maryjane Evans)

Alsobia punctata seed capsules (photo from the collection of Hans Wiehler)

Alsobia punctata illustrated as *Drymonia punctata* in 1844

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In Memoriam

Dee Dee Bundy	Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts
Marilyn Goldstein	Davie, Florida

Growing Alsobias

Michael J. Kartuz <mikekartuz@cox.net>
Vista, California, USA

Alsobia dianthiflora has been in my collection for over 50 years. At that time it was called *Episcia dianthiflora*. The fringed white flowers, peeking out from the small downy foliage, are produced almost all year. Unlike Episcias, Alsobias are quite hardy, and can tolerate temperatures down to 32°F without suffering and can easily be grown in a cool greenhouse without damage, and outdoors in summer in a shady location. They are great for small hanging baskets.

This charming gesneriad was offered at a commercial nursery in New Jersey specializing in African violets circa 1950. However, I soon discovered it was infected with nematodes so it had to be discarded. I seem to remember finding it again at Albert Buell's greenhouse in Connecticut.

Alsobia dianthiflora is a trailing stoloniferous plant, as are most other varieties in this small gesneriad genus. It is easy to propagate from its runners (stolons). The best plants, however, are produced from seed. The seed capsule forms as a small green berry that turns brown and splits open when ripe. The seeds are surrounded by a granular gelatinous substance. Smear it on a piece of paper, and plant the seeds when dry.

I have grown *Alsobia punctata*, but found it rather rangy. Its hybrids with *A. dianthiflora* are better. *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' is nice, with fringed white flowers that are lightly dotted. *Alsobia* 'Iris August' is similar and more robust. It almost always has a few flowers showing.

My favorite is *Alsobia* 'San Miguel', a wonderful hybrid produced by the late great hybridizer Bartley Schwarz. The fringed white flowers, boldly dotted rosy purple, are produced abundantly most of the year.

For interested collectors, there are possibly two other *Alsobia* species, namely *Alsobia* sp. "Chiapas" and *Alsobia* sp. nov. aff. *punctata*. I have *Alsobia* sp. "Chiapas" in my collection. It is not stoloniferous, the stems are rather thick and wiry, and it produces clusters of lightly dotted, greenish white, fringed flowers. A hybrid was made by John Boggan between *A. punctata* and *A.* sp. "Chiapas".

Alsobia 'Iris August'

Alsobia 'San Miguel'

(grown and photographed by Michael Kartuz)

Growing *Alsobia* 'Cygnet'

Lynn Cook and Troy Ray
Landenberg, Pennsylvania, USA

The *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' exhibited in the 2009 Gesneriad Convention Flower Show came to us in 2005 as a single abandoned cutting. We hosted our local gesneriad chapter, the Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society, for the meeting year of 2005-06 while the chapter was finding a permanent meeting location. During that time, members brought plants or cuttings to sell with the proceeds going into an honor box for the benefit of the society. We were new to growing gesneriads so took the opportunity to try to grow the occasional unsold cutting or plant left behind on our dining room table. The *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' started as one such cutting.

We moved in July 2007 from our house and tiny 8'×16' kit greenhouse 35 miles south to an old stone house (circa 1823) in Southern Chester County, Pennsylvania, and had a 28'×50' greenhouse constructed. Moving can be horticultural hell, and many plants suffered in their makeshift accommodations until the greenhouse was finished in December 2007. While many gesneriads prefer household temperatures and light-cart light, *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' survived the move well and now thrives in the high-light section of the greenhouse where phragmapediums, cattleyas, cactus, and a variety of other high-light plants grow. It hangs about a foot inside one of the 12' high sidewalls.

Alsobia 'Cygnet' (grown and photographed by Lynn Cook and Troy Ray)

The minimum greenhouse temperature is 60°F (14.6°C) in winter. During the day, solar gain can often increase that minimum by 10-20°F (5.6-11.1°C). During the warmer months, the temperature is whatever the ambient air temperature is. In the summer, 90°F (32.2°C) and higher is common. Ventilation is excellent with a full fifty-foot length ridge vent and side flaps. These are automatically opened in increments according to the temperature of the interior probe, set at bench level. A large window and doors, opened manually, at the north-south opposite ends of the greenhouse and at right angles to the east-west side flaps, provide strong cross ventilation.

The *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' is watered daily with our well water which has low dissolved salts and pH 5.9. It prefers to be relatively pot-bound so the nearly 10' length of the plant grows from a 6" hanging basket. It is fertilized weekly with full strength 20-20-20 solution during the winter, spring, and summer. During the fall, full strength 10-50-10 is used. The plant is potted in a perlite-free soilless mix with fine charcoal and sand added. The mix is approximately 1/3 soilless mix, 1/3 charcoal, 1/3 sand, done by the "grab a handful" method.

When the growth of each new node emerges, one of the leaves in the set is pinched off. This promotes growth in the remaining leaves, making them larger, which, to our eyes, offsets the flowers better. Each node will have at least one flower, but may produce two or three flowers.

Alsobia 'Cygnet' can be grown outside in our Zone 6b during the summer. We have not trimmed our plant (except to provide cuttings to create a daughter plant) simply because we have the room and like growing large specimens. The daughter plant was created in 2008 and is now 6' long. Trimming will not make the plant bushier, but can be done easily to keep the plant shorter.

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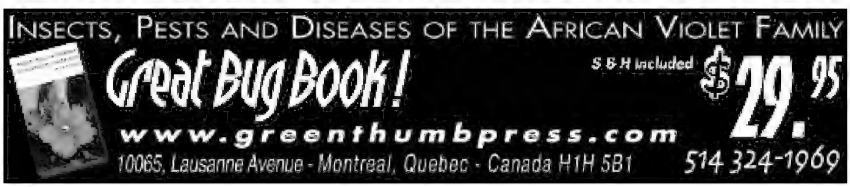
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Coming Events

February 20 – Arizona – Desert Sun African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Phoenix 30th Anniversary Show & Sale at Valley Garden Center, 1809 North 15th Ave. (1 block north of McDowell Rd), Phoenix. Saturday: sale 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; show 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Ann Stoetzer <anncie@cox.net>.

March 13 & 14 – Illinois – Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show and Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe (847-835-5440). Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Susan Bradford <asusan.bradford@abbott.com> (847-740-7801).

March 13 & 14 – Washington, D.C. – National Capital Area Chapter judged show and sale "Going Green with Gesneriads" at the National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue East. Saturday 12:30 to 5:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Jim Roberts <jim-roberts@hughes.net>.

March 20 & 21 – Washington – Puget Sound Gesneriad Society judged show and sale at Swanson's Nursery, Seattle. Saturday 12:00 to 6:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Rohm Gustafson <lightgarden@clearwire.net> (206-255-3136).

March 27 & 28 – New York – The African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York judged show and plant sale "Violets and Gesneriads in Western New York" at the Galleria Mall, Cheektowaga. Saturday 12:00 to 6:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Paul Kroll <pfkroll@roadrunner.com>.

March 27 & 28 – Ontario, Canada – Toronto Gesneriad Society judged show and sale at Sherway Gardens Shopping Mall, Etobicoke. Saturday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact Doris Brownlie (905-270-6776) <jtbrownlie@idirect.com>.

April 17 & 18 – New York – The Long Island Gesneriad Society (in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island) judged show and plant sale "Shakespeare in the Garden" at Planting Fields Arboretum Conference Center, Oyster Bay. Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Ben Paternoster <ben9@optonline.net> (631-549-6788).

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Local Convention Chairperson

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Set beside English Bay, a protected natural harbor, and against the backdrop of the north shore mountains, Vancouver is Canada's largest west coast city port and has numerous attractions for its visitors.

Our convention hotel, the Radisson, is located right in the heart of Richmond, a multi-cultural suburb city just south of Vancouver and about 5-10 minutes from the airport. There's a free hotel shuttle running every twenty minutes between the hotel and Vancouver Airport. The hotel is directly across the street from the Aberdeen station of the Canada Line, an elevated light rapid transit system that can take you to or from the airport in addition to traveling to downtown Vancouver, about a 20-minute ride.

Although flying into Vancouver is the easiest, many might prefer to land in Seattle and rent a car for a scenic three-hour drive north on the I-5 interstate. In BC, this becomes Highway #99 north to Vancouver, passing right through Richmond with easy access to the convention hotel (take the Westminster exit west into Richmond center.)

In addition to our tour on Thursday, there are many other interesting sites to visit including the VanDusen Botanical Gardens, a 55-acre jewel of a

garden, located in Vancouver. Thanks to our mild coastal climate, the garden is able to showcase a huge display of plants of varied hardiness from all over the world.

Then there is Stanley Park, a 1000-acre peninsula right at the edge of downtown Vancouver. The forest has been preserved from logging since the late 1800's and now is a very mature northern rain forest. There are many beautiful trails throughout the park as well as a spacious walk/cycle perimeter pathway, the Seawall is right at sea level, which circles the park. One can also rent bicycles nearby and cycle around the Seawall (about an hour's time). The Vancouver Aquarium is also located on the park site.

For those interested in an all-day (or longer) venture, one can drive or take a bus on the ferry to Vancouver Island to visit the city of Victoria and/or the world-famous Butchart Gardens. In addition to these interesting things to do in and around this beautiful city (and these are only a few!), you will also enjoy our lineup of speakers, our show, and our plant sale.

For those bringing plants into Canada, you will need a phytosanitary certificate issued by your appropriate agricultural inspection authority (in the US, the Department of Agriculture). For those wishing to bring plants back home, we will be arranging for Canadian officials to inspect and issue the necessary certificates. More details of this will be published in the second quarter issue of GESNERIADS.

Be sure to bring your "real" passport and sign up early for a super convention experience (and of course to have first access to the plant sales....)

Looking forward to seeing you all here!

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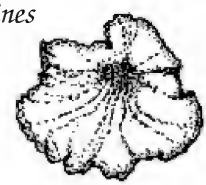


54th Annual Convention of The Gesneriad Society
hosted by the
Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society

2010 Chairpersons

Convention	Paul Susi <convention@gesneriadsociety.org> 347-809-4447 117-01 Park Lane South, Apt C1A Kew Gardens, NY 11418
Convention Coordinator	Jeanne Katzenstein <jkatzenste@aol.com>
Convention Registrar	Bob Clark <conventionregistration@gmail.com>
Awards	Jo Anne Martinez <awards@gesneriadsociety.org>
Development Committee/Auction	Suzie Larouche
Shows & Judging	Ben Paternoster
Local Convention Chair	Bill Price <billprice@shaw.ca>
Artwork & Pamphlet	Marianne & Doug Moore
Convention Packet	Katrina Andresen
Plant Sales	Nancy Kast, Mel Grice
Publicity	Marianne Moore
Speakers	Doris Brownlie
Special Events & Transportation	Bill Price, Tanya Shevtsova
Table Favors	Michael Ward
Treasurer	Barbara Dawson
Volunteers/Hospitality	Doreen Hovermale
Flower Show Chair	Arleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>
Artistic & Show Schedule	Paul Kroll, Arleen Dewell
Artistic Reservations	Paul Kroll
Classification & Plant Inspection	Ron Myhr, Vincent Woo
Educational & Commercial	Katrina Andresen
Entries	Beverley Williams, Emma Bygott
Judges & Clerks	Michael Riley
Placement	Paul Kroll
Plant Maintenance	Michael Ward
Staging	Tanya Shevtsova

54th Annual Convention of The Gesneriad Society
Tuesday, June 29, to Saturday, July 3, 2010
Convention Registration Form

Mail to Convention Registrar: **Bob Clark**
1122 E. Pike St., PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122 USA

Or register online at **<www.gesneriadsociety.org>**
Email inquiries to **<conventionregistration@gmail.com>**

Please print:

Name(s) _____
[will appear on your name badge(s) and attendees list as printed here]

Address _____ City _____

State/Prov _____ Country _____ Zip/Post Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership # (top line of current mailing label) _____

Category: ☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Sustaining ☐ Research ☐ Life

☐ Attending my first Gesneriad Society Convention

☐ Commercial (nursery/greenhouse name) _____

Date arriving at hotel: _____ Date leaving hotel: _____

Special diet needs (check box and/or specify below)
☐ Diabetic ☐ Allergic to shellfish ☐ Allergic to peanuts
☐ Vegetarian specify if will also eat ☐ chicken ☐ fish
☐ Other _____

Will you volunteer a few hours of your time to help with staffing during convention?
(You will be contacted by the volunteer coordinator regarding specific days/times)
☐ Host at Registration Table ☐ Assist with Plant Sales
☐ Host at Flower Show ☐ Distribute table favors / Take meal tickets

A phytosanitary certificate is required by the United States (and other countries) and must be presented on request during customs inspection when returning to the United States.

☐ I will require a phytosanitary certificate to transport plants out of Canada
Preferred time to have plants inspected:
☐ Saturday morning ☐ Saturday afternoon ☐ Sunday morning

All registrations must be postmarked by June 1, 2010. After that date, registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis and will be charged a late fee of $45. Early registrations (those postmarked by April 1, 2010) will entitle a registrant to a copy of the convention lecture CD for just the postage and handling cost. The CD will be mailed in late 2010. Registration fee includes all lectures except the Judging School which has a separate fee. **Note that all prices are in US dollars.**

Early admission to plant sales will be in registration number order as will appointments for phytosanitary certificates.

Convention Refund Policy

Requests for refunds made before June 15, 2010 will be honored in full. Requests made between June 15 and June 29, 2010 will be honored to the extent possible, and refunds will be given based on previous commitments made to the hotel, bus, and tour operators. Refunds cannot be guaranteed if requested after June 29, 2010.

Event	No.	$US	Total
Primary Registrant (including packet)	____	@ $50 =	$_____
Guest or Family: spouse/children (including packet)	____	@ $25 =	$_____
Guest or Family: spouse/children (badge only)	____	@ $10 =	$_____
Tuesday, June 29, Visit to the home of Bill Price/buffet dinner	____	@ $30 =	$_____
Wednesday, June 30, Opening Breakfast *Scrambled eggs w/bacon, turkey sausage, potatoes*	____	@ $19 =	$_____
Wednesday, June 30, Judging School (*select one per registrant*) Reg #1: ☐ Novice ☐ Intermediate/Advanced ☐ Workshop (certified judges only) Reg #2: ☐ Novice ☐ Intermediate/Advanced ☐ Workshop (certified judges only) Other Registrants (specify): _____	____	@ $10 =	$ _____
Wednesday, June 30, Pacific Rim Buffet Dinner *Stir fry beef w/peppers & black bean sauce, wild BC salmon medallions, soy sauce noodles, chowder, salads, dessert*	____	@ $32 =	$_____
Thursday, July 1, Trip to the University of BC Botanical Garden and Southlands Nursery ☐ I would like a seat on the motorized cart to get around the garden	____	@ $25 =	$_____
Friday, July 2, Healthy Breakfast Buffet *Fruit, muffins, yogurt, hot/cold cereals* (judges, clerks and flower show personnel only)	____	@ $16 =	$_____
Friday, July 2, Membership Luncheon – Ploughman's Buffet *Sandwich: grilled eggplant and sweet pepper; or Dijon/pepper-crusted roast beef striploin; or breast of chicken salad w/walnuts (each served with soup of the day, selection of salads, desserts). Specify sandwich and bread choice:* Reg #1: ☐ Eggplant ☐ Striploin ☐ Chicken salad *on* ☐ White ☐ Wheat ☐ Rye Reg #2: ☐ Eggplant ☐ Striploin ☐ Chicken salad *on* ☐ White ☐ Wheat ☐ Rye Other Registrants (specify): _____	____	@ $24 =	$_____
Friday, July 2, Flower Show Awards Banquet *Steak w/cognac & green peppercorn sauce; or maple/teriyaki-glazed salmon fillet* Reg #1: ☐ Grilled NY Steak ☐ Salmon fillet Reg #2: ☐ Grilled NY Steak ☐ Salmon fillet Other Registrants (specify): _____	____	@ $47 =	$_____
Saturday, July 3, Luncheon *Cheese & spinach cannelloni w/béchamel sauce; or beef stroganoff w/buttered noodles; or penne w/chicken, asparagus and red pepper pesto* Reg #1: ☐ Cannelloni ☐ Beef ☐ Penne w/chicken Reg #2: ☐ Cannelloni ☐ Beef ☐ Penne w/chicken Other Registrants (specify): _____	____	@ $30 =	$_____
Saturday, July 3, Cruise in Vancouver Harbor on the *Pride of Vancouver* yacht with buffet dinner	____	@ $85 =	$_____
☐ Flower Show Award Sponsorship ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of _____			$_____
☐ Gesneriad Society Tote Bag (pick up at convention)	____	@ $10 =	$_____
☐ Early Registrant Lecture CD (register by 4/1/10)	____	@ $ 5 =	$_____
☐ Pre-Order Lecture CD (register after 4/1/10)	____	@ $15 =	$_____
Late Charge (if postmarked after 6/1/10)	____	@ $45 =	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed			**$**_____

Make check or money order (payable in US$ on a US bank) to: **The Gesneriad Society, Inc.**

or charge $_____ to my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard #_____

Expiration Date _____ Name on card _____

Signature _____

2010 Convention Program

Tuesday, June 29

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings and Lunch
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Board Buses for Bill Price's Home (depart at 5:30 promptly)
5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Visit to Bill Price's Home with Dinner and Social Time

Wednesday, June 30

7:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Convention Registration and Information (Flower Show entry forms accepted)
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Convention Opening Breakfast and Welcome by Convention Committee and Gesneriad Society President
8:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Judges Training, Session 1: Novice / Intermediate and Advanced / Workshop (pre-registration and Gesneriad Society membership required)
12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Judges Training, Session 2, All Levels
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Judges Interest Group Meeting
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Chapter Presidents Meeting with Society President and C&A Chair (open to chapter/affiliate presidents or delegates)
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Judges Test
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information (Flower Show entry forms accepted)
4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Newsletter Editors Meeting
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Host Chapter Social
6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Buffet Dinner Honoring Chapters and Members-at-large
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Gesneriad Hybridizers Association Meeting (open to all)

Thursday, July 1

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Convention Registration and Information (final submission of entry forms)
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Board Buses for Trip (depart at 8:45 a.m. promptly)
8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Bus trip to UBC Botanical Garden and Southlands Nursery
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conservation Committee Meeting
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Auction Donations Accepted
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Flower Show Entries
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Lecture #1: "Hunting Gesneriads at the Edge of the World: More Tales from the Southeast Asia-Pacific Interface Zone" by John R. Clark (Sarasota, FL)
8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Sales of Publications and Promotional Items
9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Early Entry Plant Sales (entry by registration number)
9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Plant Sales

Friday, July 2

6:00 a.m. - 6:45 a.m.	Flower Show Late Entries (with permission of Show Chair)
7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast for 2010 Judges, Clerks and Show Personnel Only
7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Flower Show Judging
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Convention Registration and Information
9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Plant, Seed, Promo and Publications Sales; Auction Viewing
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon and Annual Membership Meeting: President Peter Shalit presiding; Awards of Appreciation; Election of Directors
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Flower Show and Plant Sales Open; Auction Viewing
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Lecture #2: "The History of Saintpaulias and Other Gesneriads in Russia" by Vladimir Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Lecture #3: "Cuban Gesneriads: Botanical Treasures of the Caribbean" by John L. Clark (Tuscaloosa, AL)
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Cocktail Hour
7:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	Flower Show Awards Banquet (Awards Chair: Jo Anne Martinez)
9:15 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Flower Show Open

Saturday, July 3

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Photographers Only in Show Room
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Flower Show Judges Critique (for judges and clerks who participated in the 2010 Flower Show)
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Convention Registration and Information
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Auction Viewing
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Plant Sales; Seed, Promo and Publications Sales Open
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Phytosanitary Inspectors Available
9:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Flower Show Open
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Lecture #4: "A Proposed New Classification System for the Species of *Columnea*" by James F. Smith (Boise, ID)
11:30 a.m.	Silent Auction Closes
12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Luncheon Honoring Commercial Growers; Live Auction (Chair: Suzie Larouche)
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Phytosanitary Inspectors Available
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Final Plant Sales
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Auction Settlement (live and silent)
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Flower Show and Plant Sales Breakdown
4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Board Buses for Dinner Cruise (depart promptly at 5:00 p.m.)
5:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Dinner Cruise around Vancouver Harbor

Sunday, July 4

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Phytosanitary Inspectors Available (if required)

Auction 2010

Live or silent, we know that you will enjoy bidding and winning at this year's auction. In 2009 at the live auction we again auctioned off "specialist" Jon Dixon to show the lucky winner around the plant sales room before the official opening. Jon will be escorting Kathy Spissman around the sales room in Vancouver as he did last year in Silver Spring. It's round three for Kathy! Will you be his partner in 2011 in Philadelphia?

If you plan on making an auction donation, complete the auction form that you will receive with your registration packet and have it with you when you bring your items to the auction room on Thursday afternoon. Bring us some of your own horticulturally related items, or live plant material, or even designate one or more of your flower show entries as auction donations and join the fun.

Paul Susi, Development Chair
Suzie Larouche, Auction Chair

Plant Sales Procedures

Register early so you'll get into the plant sales early. You'll want to because we expect to have a large selection from which to choose. Individual donors, chapters (for a great way to raise funds), and vendors are invited to participate in the exciting plant sales event at this year's convention. If you are a donor or a vendor, please make sure that potted plants for sale are well rooted and clearly labeled. Rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, and stolons in labeled plastic bags are also welcome. Individuals, chapters, and vendors putting plants into the sale are expected to volunteer in the sales room for a few hours during convention.

Use one of the following procedures in preparing plants for sale. These procedures will insure that sellers receive full proceeds from their plants, buyers will have the plant name, and the sales process will be efficient.

Donors: We will greatly appreciate any amount of donated plant material.

- Each plant must be labeled, either with its name printed clearly on a WHITE plant tag placed securely in the pot, or with a label on the pot. Growers are requested to place their name on the back of the WHITE plant identification label. Plastic tags are preferred (please use a complete tag in a pot; do not cut tags into small pieces for labels); paper tags are discouraged.
- You do not need to price your plants in advance (but it would be helpful). Just bring your donated materials to the plant sales rooms and the sales committee will price them for you.

Vendors: Each vendor bringing plants for the sale at convention must bring a minimum of 50 plants.

- Each plant must be labeled, either with its name printed clearly on a WHITE plant tag placed securely in the pot, or with a label on the pot. Growers are requested to place their name on the back of the WHITE plant identification label. Plastic tags are preferred (please use a complete tag in a pot; do not cut tags into small pieces for labels); paper tags are discouraged.
- The price and seller's identification must be shown on a separate brightly COLORED plant tag. Please advise Mel Grice of the color and identification code you will use.
- Place BOTH tags (name of plant tag and price/your ID tag) on the same side of the pot facing out. It will help if the price tag is longer than the name tag.
- Label cuttings, rhizomes, tubers and bagged plants by clearly printing the plant name on the bag or on a WHITE plant tag securely attached to the bag using tape. Alternatively, use a plastic label placed inside the bag. Please do not staple pricing labels on bags holding plant material.
- Price cuttings, rhizomes, tubers and bagged plants by attaching a brightly COLORED tag with the price and seller's identification. Attach the price tag separately from the name tag using tape.

If you plan to donate and/or sell plants at convention, we would appreciate your informing us as early as possible. Please send your name, address, and the ID (example: "M.G." on blue tag) you will use on your tags to: Mel Grice, 2019 Crosswind Court, Englewood, OH 45322 USA or email <mels-grice@earthlink.net>. It would be helpful if everyone donating and/or selling plants gives them to us by Wednesday or latest by Thursday morning. Anyone who foresees arriving later, please notify Mel Grice or Nancy Kast so arrangements can be made.

A Call for Judges and Clerks

Members who are attending convention and interested in an assignment as a judge or clerk, please notify Judges Chairperson, Michael Riley, 101 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025 or <Riley2362@aol.com> for consideration. Invitations will be extended individually so please confirm your contact information.

Judges Training School

The Training School for the 2010 Convention will be held on Wednesday, June 30. The school consists of two sessions. Session 1 will be held from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. and Session 2 from 12:15 to 2:00 p.m. The novices will be in a separate class during Session 1. (Novices should obtain and study the *Flower Show Manual for Judges and Exhibitors* from Gesneriad Society Publications.) The certified judges who register must indicate their choice of class for Session 1, either Intermediate/Advanced (primarily for judges preparing for the Senior Judge exam) or Workshop. Information on the Workshop topic always appears in both the January and May issues of *Appraisal*. Any certified judge may take the Workshop. All registrants are together for Session 2. The examination will be given from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. A member who is primarily interested in exhibiting, and not necessarily becoming a judge, may register for the school. Taking the examination is optional unless accreditation as a judge is desired.

Registration for the school ($10) can be accomplished on the same form as registration for Convention (both online and printed). **No registrations will be accepted at Convention**. Payment for *Appraisal* subscriptions should be made directly to Mel Grice when your subscription is due for renewal. Novice registrants who meet all other requirements for becoming student judges must subscribe to *Appraisal* no later than September 30, 2010.

There will be a meeting of the Judges Interest Group on Wednesday, June 30, from 2:15 to 3:00 p.m. Current Gesneriad Society judges or those interested in becoming judges are welcome to attend this meeting. For judges and clerks who participate in the flower show judging, there will be a critique on Saturday, July 3, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Ben Paternoster, Shows & Judging Chair <ben9@optonline.net>

Flower Show Awards

The members of the Vancouver Chapter are proud and excited to be hosting the 2010 Convention to be held near Vancouver, Canada, an area that many of us have never been to before. Our Convention Chairperson, Bill Price, and our Show Chairperson, Arleen Dewell, along with many chapter members, have been working hard to make this a most memorable convention. In anticipation, I applied and received my passport several months ago. Our last convention show was extremely large and I was told to expect the same or larger. Wow!

As Awards Chair, I have the honor of recognizing all the outstanding and beautiful plants and exhibits. The generosity of the individual members, commercial members, chapters and friends-at-large who donate these awards is greatly appreciated by the winning exhibitors, the Society and, most of all, me. With your help, I can recognize each and every award-winning exhibit. Your past donations have been most wonderful and have made this job fun and enjoyable. I am counting on you again this year.

Please join in the fun and consider donating an award for the 2010 Convention. A member or chapter who wishes to donate an award may forward an award to me at the address below. Checks or money orders should be make payable to The Gesneriad Society. Awards may also be made when registering for convention by mail or on the website <www.gesneriadsociety.org>. All awards must be received by June 20. Any awards received after this date will be applied to next year's convention.

As in the past, preference is for unspecified awards. This allows for fair distribution to all deserving entries. Special requests will be filled on a first-come basis. If there are no eligible entries, or the category's award has already been filled, with your permission the award will be transferred to another class or section. Should there be fewer eligible entries than awards, the balance of award donations will be used to sponsor color pictures in our great journal.

THANK YOU to all who have donated in the past. Your generosity has been overwhelming, and I look forward to your continued support. Never donated an award? Become a first-time donor and join the tradition.

Acknowledgment of all award donations will appear in the fourth quarter issue of GESNERIADS and also on our website. Again, thank you for your past support and for your consideration for this year's convention.

Jo Anne Martinez <4jam@tampabay.rr.com>
809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, FL 33613

The Gesneriad Society Convention 2010 Flower Show Schedule
"Vancouver!! Your Passport to Gesneriads"

Entries will be accepted on Thursday, July 1, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Late entries may be received on Friday morning, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:45 a.m. only by prior arrangement and with the written permission of the Flower Show Chairperson.

Division I — HORTICULTURE

SECTION A — New World Gesneriads in Flower – Tuberous

Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids (upright or pendent flowers)
Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species with rosette growth pattern
Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species with upright growth pattern
Class 4 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with rosette growth pattern
Class 5 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with upright growth pattern
Class 6 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (largest leaf less than 1" long)
Class 7 Other tuberous gesneriads

SECTION B — New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

Class 8 *Achimenes*
Class 9 *Kohleria*
Class 10 *Seemannia* and its intergeneric hybrids
Class 11 *Smithiantha*
Class 12 Other rhizomatous gesneriads less than 5" in all dimensions including the container
Class 13 Other rhizomatous gesneriads

SECTION C — New World Gesneriads in Flower – Fibrous-Rooted

Class 14 *Codonanthe*, ×*Codonatanthus*
Class 15 *Columnea* (*Dalbergaria, Pentadenia, Trichantha*)
Class 16 *Episcia, Alsobia*
Class 17 *Gesneria*
Class 18 *Nematanthus*
Class 19 Other fibrous-rooted gesneriads

SECTION D — Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 20 *Aeschynanthus*
Class 21 *Chirita* species
Class 22 *Chirita* hybrids
Class 23 *Petrocosmea*
Class 24 *Saintpaulia* species
Class 25 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as miniatures (max of 6" diameter)
Class 26 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as semi-miniatures (max of 8" diameter)
Class 27 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as standards
Class 28 *Saintpaulia* trailers
Class 29 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpella*
Class 30 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpus*, species
Class 31 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpus*, hybrids
Class 32 Other Old World gesneriads

SECTION E — Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers: Decorative fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

Class 33 *Chirita*
Class 34 *Episcia*
Class 35 *Episcia* with pink-and-white leaf variegation
Class 36 *Petrocosmea*
Class 37 Other gesneriads with green-and-white leaf variegation
Class 38 Other gesneriad species
Class 39 Other gesneriad hybrids

SECTION F — New Gesneriads: Introductions made within the last 5 years, but not previously entered in this section of any Gesneriad Society Convention Show. A white card (not to exceed 8.5"×5.5") must be provided giving educational information such as name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

Class 40 Species in flower
Class 41 Species not in flower
Class 42 Hybrids or named cultivars in flower
Class 43 Hybrids or named cultivars not in flower

SECTION G — Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows: A white card (not to exceed 8.5"×5.5") must be provided with educational information such as habitat, source, cultural requirements.

Class 44 In flower

Class 45 Not in flower

SECTION H — Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads: An educational 3"×5" white card is suggested stating what training the exhibit received and how the exhibit is to be viewed (all sides or from the front).

Class 46 Bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style

SECTION I — Collections of Gesneriads: A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for ornamental qualities, or in combination (Saintpaulias must be in flower). Exhibitor must provide a card, not to exceed 8.5"×5.5", with identification of plants. In Class 47, exhibitor is encouraged to reflect variety as this is a consideration in judging. In Class 48, educational information must also be provided.

Class 47 Plants of a single genus either species, cultivars or hybrids

Class 48 Kinship group – Interspecific or intergeneric hybrid/hybrids exhibited with one or more parents

SECTION J — Gesneriads Grown by a Novice: A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the Horticulture Division of a gesneriad (including AV) flower show. Exhibitors wishing Novice Status for the Horticulture Division may not enter other Horticulture classes.

Class 49 Gesneriads in flower

Class 50 Gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than flowers (no flowers or buds showing color allowed)

Division II — ARTISTIC

There is a limit of 4 entries in each class in Sections K, L and M with the exception of Challenge Class 55, which has a limit of 8 entries, and Class 58 which has no limit. Reservation requests (deadline June 21, 2010) must be emailed to <pfkroll@roadrunner.com> or sent to Paul F. Kroll, 4325 Two Rod Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. Reservations are also required for Sections N and O, with no limit on the number of entries in each class. ***Artistic arrangers must leave the showroom at the latest by 9:00 p.m.***

SECTION K — Arrangements of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Gesneriad Material

Class 51 "Quarry Garden" – On the highest point of land in Vancouver called Little Mountain, there was a basalt quarry that provided the foundation rock for the city's first roads. Today the rocky shelves of the old quarry form the centerpiece for one of our most celebrated gardens. Niche size: 12"H × 10"W × 10"D.

Class 52 "Two Sisters" – Look to the northwest and you will see them, two mountains high on the mountain crest. Long ago, the beautiful daughters of an Indian Chief brought peace to the warring tribes of the Pacific coastal region. Immortalized as the Lions of Vancouver, they still guard our peace today. A twin arrangement. Niche size: 18"H × 15"W × 12"D.

Class 53 "Whistler Mountain" – A main competition venue for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. With the exception of the plant material, create your Olympic memories in a black and white design. Niche size: 20"H × 15"W × 12"D.

Class 54 "Bridging Barriers" – Above the Capilano River on Vancouver's North Shore, a 450' long suspension bridge soars over the canyon floor, carrying you into the heart of the living forest. A mobile design. Niche size: 23"H × 18"W × 15"D.

SECTION L — Arrangements of Fresh Cut Gesneriad Material

Class 55 CHALLENGE CLASS – All materials will be provided, except mechanics and container. The class title will be announced at 3:00 p.m. and materials will be available at that time. Niche size: 10"H × 10"W × 8"D.

Class 56 "Ceremonial Drums" – The beating of drums announces arrivals and departures in Aboriginal cultures. A foliage-only design that evokes the history of this time-honored ritual. Niche size: 12"H × 10"W × 10"D.

Class 57 "Friends Transcend Borders" – From all over the world, people are drawn to the city's beaches on warm summer nights to enjoy the fireworks displays. Show us the excitement of this dazzling event. Niche size: 18"H × 15"W × 12"D.

Class 58 "Baby Beluga" – Our aquarium fosters a conservation program for Belugas, the white whales of the Arctic. Qila, the first calf born in a Canadian aquarium, has her own calf, and Aurora, Qila's mom, blessed us with her third Baby Beluga. An underwater design not to exceed 12" in any dimension. A 12" square blue base will be provided under each arrangement.

SECTION M — Arrangements of Growing Gesneriad Material

Class 59 "On With the Show" – An open-air amphitheater in the heart of the city, the Showboat on Kitsilano Beach hosts free performances featuring local singers, dancers and musicians. Celebrate our budding talent! Niche size: 12"H × 10"W × 8"D.

Class 60 "Pacific Spirit" – Minutes west of Vancouver, this regional park's forests and foreshore wrap around the Pt. Grey peninsula touching the Fraser River, Burrard Inlet, and the Strait of Georgia. Incorporate water into this peaceful, calming respite from the pressures of city life. Niche size: 18"H × 15"W × 12"D.

Class 61 "Siwash Rock" – A tall, symmetrical column of solid grey stone graces the entrance to Vancouver's harbor. Indian legend reveres it as a monument to man's enduring fidelity to a generation yet unborn. Interpret the mystery of Siwash. Niche size: 20"H × 15"W × 12"D.

SECTION N — Plantings of Growing Material

Class 62 Terrarium – straight-sided: not to exceed 24" in any dimension.

Class 63 Terrarium – curved: not to exceed 24" in any dimension.

Class 64 Tray Landscape – not to exceed 12" in any dimension.

Class 65 Tray Landscape – exceeds 12" in at least one dimension but does not exceed 24" in any dimension.

Class 66 Natural Garden – planted on rock or wood, not to exceed 12" in any dimension.

Class 67 Natural Garden – planted on rock or wood, exceeds 12" in at least one dimension but does not exceed 24" in any dimension.

SECTION O — Artistic Entries by Novices: A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad (including AV) flower show. Exhibitors wishing Novice Status for the Artistic Division may not enter other Division II classes.

Class 68 Artistic entries suitable for any of the classes in Sections K, L, M, or N, except for Challenge Class 55. Exhibitor must identify, on a 3"×5" white card, the name of the class chosen and the plant material used.

Division III — THE ARTS

SECTION P — Photography: The subject must be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8"×10" and mats should not exceed 11"×14". Easels must be provided for prints 5"×7" or over. Exhibitors are required to reserve space (indicating the size of the exhibit) for entries in Section P. There is a limit of two entries per exhibitor and each entry must be in a different class. Reservations (deadline June 21, 2010) may be emailed to <katrina.andresen@yahoo.com> or sent to Katrina Andresen, 7 Hawthorn Drive, Port Moody, BC, Canada V3H 0A4.

Class 69 Color print of parts of a gesneriad (flowers, fruit, foliage, etc.).

Class 70 Color print of a whole gesneriad plant.

Class 71 Color print of gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat. The subject must be portrayed growing wild in an area of the world considered by botanists to be its natural range, not cultivated in pots, gardens, or greenhouses. A white card (maximum 8.5"×5.5") must be provided detailing location, climate, month/year photo was taken, how the site was accessed, and any other pertinent information.

Class 72 Monochrome print.

SECTION Q — Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 73 Painting or drawing: An easel must be provided by the exhibitor.

Class 74 Needlework or textile: A 3"×5" white card must be provided giving the source of the design.

Class 75 Other arts and crafts.

Division IV — COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

Reservations (deadline June 21, 2010) for Sections R and S may be sent to Katrina Andresen, 7 Hawthorn Drive, Port Moody, BC, Canada V3H 0A4, or emailed to <katrina.andresen@yahoo.com>.

SECTION R — Commercial Displays

Class 76 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (10 or more plants).

Class 77 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (fewer than 10 plants).

SECTION S — Educational Exhibits

Class 78 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion.

Class 79 Exhibit of plant material with educational information.

Class 80 Exhibit of photograph(s) of gesneriad plant material that because of its seasonal nature or rarity in cultivation is not often exhibited live. A white card (not to exceed 8.5"×5.5") must be provided outlining source, natural habitat, cultural information, and reason for suitability in this class.

Class 81 Exhibit of photograph(s) of gesneriads growing outdoors as bedding, accent, or container plants. Gesneriad(s) must be identified and additional information included about climate, growing medium, culture, etc.

General Rules and Exhibitors Information

1. Each exhibitor must prepare a list of plants and other exhibits with the appropriate Section and Class numbers to facilitate the work of the Entries Committee. The Flower Show Committee will assist in identifying material unknown to the exhibitor. A computerized entry system will be used, and an entry form will be included in each registration packet. **Exhibitors must complete their entry forms and submit them at Registration on Wednesday or latest by 8:45 a.m. on Thursday**. Your cooperation will expedite the entries process for everyone.
2. All plant material must be free of insects and disease. All entries will be inspected, including those for exhibit only.
3. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule and must be approved by the Classification Committee. Nonconformity to schedule may bring disqualification.
4. Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society.
5. Entries will be accepted only during the hours specified. An exhibitor may request that an entry be accepted for exhibit only. Educational information should be provided where appropriate. These entries, and any arriving after the close of Entries, will be placed in a separate area of the showroom for exhibit only and will not be judged.
6. All entries will be staged in the showroom by the Placement Committee. Collections and artistic entries may be placed in the showroom by the exhibitor in the space designated and during the stated time for entries.
7. In fairness to amateur growers, institutions may not make more than two entries in each of the Horticulture, Artistic or Arts Divisions of the flower show. The same restriction applies to commercial growers whose employees assist with the culture and grooming of potential entries.
8. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated at the discretion of the Show Committee after entries close.
9. No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes. All entries must be checked out through the Show Committee.
10. Standard competitive judging, as established by The Gesneriad Society, will be used.
11. Awards will be made according to the following point scores: 1st, blue ribbon (90-100); 2nd, red ribbon (at least 80); 3rd, yellow ribbon (at least 70). Honorable Mentions may also be awarded.
12. Special Awards (more than a class ribbon) will be reserved for members of The Gesneriad Society unless specifically offered to nonmembers. An exhibit must score 90 or above to be considered.
13. Awards for Best and runner-up to Best Gesneriad in Show in Division I, (excluding *Saintpaulia* hybrids) are given for horticultural perfection. These awards and those for Best in Divisions II, III and IV are reserved for members of The Gesneriad Society. Entries in all Divisions must score 95 points or higher to be considered for these awards.
14. Sweepstakes and Runners-up to Sweepstakes awards for any Division require a minimum of three blue ribbons in a Division to be eligible. These awards are reserved for members of The Gesneriad Society.
15. The Gesneriad Society will endeavor to protect all entries, but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

Additional Horticulture Division Rules and Information

1. All plants must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's care for at least 3 months prior to the show.
2. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different cultivar, unless otherwise prohibited.
3. Exhibitors of *Saintpaulia* hybrids are required to respect size limitations as defined by the hybridizer as registered in the AVSA Master Variety List.
4. Exhibitors will be permitted to indicate the front of a horticulture entry.
5. No particular type of container is specified; however, all containers used must be clean. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.
6. An exhibitor may provide educational information on a white 3"×5" card for any entry if desired.
7. All exhibits in flowering classes must have at least one fully opened flower.
8. Seed pods or fruit (not spent blossoms) are permitted on all gesneriads entered in the Horticulture Division. The exhibitor should realize when entering a blooming plant with seed pods or fruit that some judges could find them enhancements of, or detractions from, the plant's appearance.

Additional Artistic Division Rules and Information

1. Gesneriads must predominate.
2. While Saintpaulias are permitted in all artistic classes, the use of other gesneriads is strongly encouraged.
3. Other live and dried plant material is permitted but no artificial plant material is allowed.
4. Plant material used in the Artistic Division need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
5. All plant material used is to be identified on an accompanying 3"×5" white card. Supplemental titles or descriptions may be added but are not required.
6. Accessories are optional unless specifically required.
7. Table covers and niches will be neutral in color. Exhibitors may provide additional background.
8. Cut blossoms or plant material may be placed in artistic arrangements on Friday morning from 6:00 to 6:45 a.m.
9. In Section N, "Dimension" refers to the linear measurements of height, width and depth only.
10. Straight-sided terrariums are composed of flat pieces of glass or plastic; curved terrariums have rounded pieces.

Additional Arts, Commercial and Educational Division Rules and Information

1. All entries must have been made by the exhibitor and feature gesneriads in some form.
2. There is a limit of one entry per exhibitor per class.
3. Entries must not have been exhibited before in any Gesneriad Society Convention show.
4. Photography: The exhibit is being judged on the skill, technique and composition displayed, not on the quality of the plant material chosen as a subject, except for Class 70.
5. Educational exhibits may be entered by institutions, chapters, study groups or individuals. In Class 78, any project relating to gesneriads may be presented with illustrative material that may or may not include live plant material.

The Gesneriad Society, Inc.
54th Annual Convention — 2010
Room Reservation Form

Mail to:

Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport
Reservations Manager
8181 Cambie Road
Richmond, BC, Canada V6X 3X9

Reservations direct: 604-279-8384
Fax: 604-276-8163
Toll-free: 800-395-7046 (US/Canada)
Hotel direct: 604-276-8181

To obtain the special group rate, reservations must be made by Saturday, May 29, 2010. Inform reservations you will be attending **The Gesneriad Society Convention 2010**. Reservations can be made by mail, email, fax, online or directly over the telephone. In order to guarantee reservations, fill out the credit card information below; otherwise, please enclose a check or money order in ***Canadian funds*** for the amount of the first night's room and tax.

For online registration (link also available at www.gesneriadsociety.org):
http://www.radisson.com/GesneriadSocietyConvention2010

Name (primary) _____

Name(s) (sharing with)_____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Country _____ Zip/Post Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell or Other Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Time _____

Departure Date _____ # Guests in Room _____

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m. Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon (All guestrooms are non-smoking)

All Prices are in Canadian Dollars

Rates: $145 Single/Double $175 Executive Suite (subject to availability)

$15 charge for each additional person in a room

Rooms are subject to all applicable taxes. (Tax prior to July 1, 2010:
10% Room Tax and 5% GST; as of July 1, 2010: 9% Room Tax and 5% GST)

Reservations must be received by May 29, 2010 to guarantee convention rates. Convention room rates in effect three days before and three days after convention, based on availability.

Circle One: American Express Diner's Club Master Card Visa

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

My check for one night deposit is enclosed $ _____

The Radisson must be informed of a reservation cancellation at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled day of arrival. If this is not done, you will be charged a cancellation fee equivalent to your first night guestroom charge and tax.

All guestrooms include complimentary parking and wireless high-speed Internet access. Complimentary hotel shuttle service to and from Vancouver International Airport is available.

Looking forward to seeing you soon in Vancouver!! Your Passport to Gesneriads

Arleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>
Vancouver, BC, Canada

We've been waiting so long for you to come! Everyone in the Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society is so excited to welcome you. We are very proud of our beautiful city and are eager to share with all of you everything it has to offer. We have some great tours planned that we hope will entice you to make a speedy return visit.

On Thursday morning (Happy Canada Day!), we will head off early to visit the University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden. It is Canada's oldest continuously operating university garden established in 1916 to research the native flora of British Columbia. Today its mission has expanded to include research, conservation, and public display of temperate plants from all over the world, especially Asian, alpine and native plants. We are very fortunate to have arranged guided tours to five and possibly six of the gardens in this 110-acre site:

- **Physic Garden** – Discover some of the plants that provided medicine and healing long before the rise of the Greek and Roman Empires in a showcase garden of formal design.
- **Native Garden** – Contained within four acres of sloping coastal forest, enjoy and savor many plants that are native to British Columbia.
- **Asian Garden** – You will adore exploring this unique garden with its familiar wisteria, rose and clematis climbing above your head to ancient fir and hemlock, exquisite rhododendrons, magnolias, and other rare flowering plants gathered together in the largest component of the U.B.C. Botanical Garden.
- **Food Garden** – A showcase of experimental and well-established varieties of vegetables, berries, and fruit trees that grow easily throughout the Pacific Northwest region make this garden a fun place for kids and for everyone who enjoys eating!
- **Alpine Garden** – This hugely diverse garden reflects many different conditions under which alpines grow. Explore gravelly outcroppings, plants that thrive in arid environments, and those that enjoy the shade and cool, rich soil of a mountain glade.
- **Carolinian Garden** – Each of its twelve individual groves is named for an early North American plant explorer. This garden is part of the Carolinian forest, one of the newest features the botanical garden has to offer.

For those of you who find a lot of walking difficult, there are motorized carts available so you can enjoy the beauty and tranquility of this extraordinary garden. We invite you to please come along! There is also a coffee shop accessible to all.

Rounding out our garden tour will be a visit to Southlands Nursery, not very far away from the university. Here you can relax and browse through a very creative and well-planned nursery that has many unique items for you to see. Then it's back to the hotel in plenty of time for you to groom those show

plants, rest a bit and recharge your batteries for the super-duper huge gesneriad plant sale to come!

Our final tour on Saturday evening will be very special and one that we hope will create glowing and unforgettable memories of your visit to our city. Come cruising with us aboard the *Star of Vancouver* yacht! We will be enjoying a sumptuous salmon barbecue dinner while gently floating around one of the world's most beautiful harbors. Surrounded by all this natural beauty and all your Gesneriad Society friends, how can you resist? See you there!

Additional Convention Information

Convention 2010, hosted by the Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society, will be held at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport, 8181 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC, Canada (604) 276-8181. The hotel is located in the heart of Richmond, a multi-ethnic suburb whose residents have the distinction of enjoying the longest life expectancy in all of Canada! The hotel is 20 minutes from downtown Vancouver on the newly constructed Canada Line. Temperatures in the Vancouver area in early July range from an average high of 23°C (73°F) to a low of 12°C (54°F).

If this is your first time in the Vancouver area, or even a repeat visit, you should plan some extra time before or after your convention stay. Visit Tourism Vancouver at <http://www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors/> for ideas on what to do and see in this exciting part of Canada. A list of attractions, restaurants, gardens and other notable sites is posted on our website <www.gesneriadsociety.org>.

It is important that all US members attending convention make sure their passports are up to date. A passport is required both to enter Canada and to return to the United States. A passport card is also available for those US members who travel infrequently between the two countries. (Note, however, that the passport card is only good for rail or auto travel; it cannot be used if traveling by air.) Full details on obtaining or renewing your passport can be obtained from the US Department of State by calling 877-487-2778 or by visiting <http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html>. Plan on taking care of your passport earlier rather than later!

A phytosanitary certificate must accompany all plants brought into Canada and all plants taken out of Canada to other countries. There will be extended inspection hours at convention for all members who need a certificate for the plants that they will be taking home with them. You can help speed up the inspection process by indicating on your registration form the time you would prefer to have your plants inspected. For US members who may want to bring show plants to Vancouver, Canadian phytosanitary requirements have been under review and should be finalized by the time you read this. Complete information on how to obtain a certificate and what type to obtain will appear in the second quarter issue of GESNERIADS.

Ecuador: Misty Mountains, Musical Mud, Ice Cream Trees, and Unknown Gesneriads

Stephen Maciejewski <teciu@verizon.net>
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Imagine going on a modern day treasure hunt. Not for gold and emeralds, but for something just as brilliant but more precious, something like living jewels. And then imagine going on an expedition with a group of 15 like-minded people and you'll get a feeling for the level of excitement and enthusiasm that pervaded the atmosphere of the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition (GRE) to Ecuador. We participated for various reasons: to observe plants in their natural habitats, photograph them, collect seeds, learn how to grow better plants, and to contribute to science. Whatever the reason, we were all bound together by our shared passion. It was gesneriads 24/7.

The group included our expedition leader, botanist John L. Clark, Ph.D. (University of Alabama), Cassandra Coleman (UA undergraduate student), Marcela Mora (UA Ph.D. student), Lucas McDonald (Alabama high school biology teacher and NSF grant recipient), Lena Klintberg from Sweden, Bill Price from Canada, previous expedition attendees Carol Ann Bonner, Mike Horton, Jeanne Katzenstein, Michael Riley, and Carolyn Ripps, and first-time GRE participants Susan Grose, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Charlene Marietti, and myself. It was a congenial group and each person was generous in sharing time, energy, muscle power, and unique expertise.

There were new thrills and adventures each day: plants and more plants, pressing plants, preserving plants, the trails leading to plants, the birds around the plants, insects on the plants, animals eating the plants, culture, the captivating scenery, gesneriads in the landscape, people, friends, food, drinks, laughter, and, yes, work – all made the experience of this trip like living in a movie.

Guides, driver, and participants on the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition to Ecuador (photographed at Siete Cascadas)

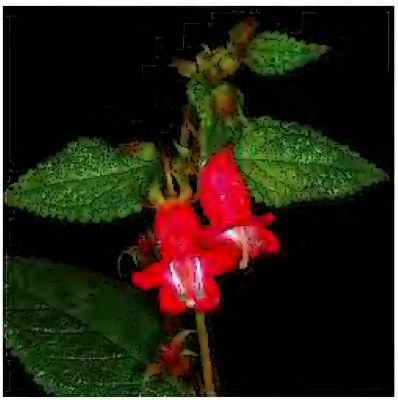
The jungle can be dark with checkered lighting and an endless range of shades of green. The plant life is exuberant – a tangle and a tapestry mirroring the countless woven textiles marketed throughout the land. Plants piggyback on plants, growing in mid-air. Debris is everywhere. It is a challenge to pick out the gesners as they easily blend into the background.

And sounds carry in the jungle. Our group, which was often stretched out along a long undulating jungle path, was often startled by an unworldly sound and stopped. What was that? A scream? A yelp? Or perhaps a cheer? Did someone fall and break a leg? Get bitten by a snake? Or stumble across a lost remnant of Peru's Maoist Shining Path? No. It was John's rallying cry to gather round and feast our eyes on a newly found gesneriad treasure.

There was always talk about John's near-endless amount of energy. He seemed to have moved beyond photosynthesis and the carbon cycle and to get his energy directly from the plants, especially the gesners in the wild. The fuller the collection bags, the more energetic he was.

I've been back home several months now and I still think about the nonstop excitement we had while looking for and collecting plants. Those 10 days in Ecuador included some of the roughest trails I have ever hiked (although daily options included easier hikes along the paved roads.) Everything, I mean everything, was awesome on this trip! Just riding in the bus on the steep switchback mountain roads was inspirational – but also included thoughts of what might happen if the bus went over the cliff. Unfortunately this trip was not for hoarders; you couldn't take the jewels home with you, only the memories.

DAY 1 (Thursday, May 28) – My trip started off with some surprises. Traveling from Philadelphia with Charlene, we encountered massive storms in Miami where we were connecting to our flight to Quito. After delays, we arrived in Quito (elevation 9252 feet) where we were greeted by the familiar faces of our trip leader and other gesneriad friends. We stayed in the Mariscal Sucre section of Quito on our first night in Ecuador. Hostal Sierra Nevada was a nice place, but getting hot water for a shower was like rolling dice.



Heppiella ulmifolia
(Stephen's first gesneriad seen in Ecuador)

Cremosperma nobile
(another favorite gesneriad of Stephen's seen on the trip)

DAY 2 – We started our plant-finding adventure early, just after breakfast. This would become our daily routine. First stop, pick up some supplies. (I always visit food markets and inspect the exotic produce when I'm in a new country as it's a great way to learn about the place and the language.) We also stopped to buy Wellies (or Wellingtons) – necessities, I soon discovered, for trekking through deep mud. These boots and machetes are as common in Ecuador as iPods and bottled water are in the US. We also quickly learned about John's approach to time: before starting out on any of the walks, we would always ask John how long the hike would be. His standard response was always "20 minutes to 3 hours."

The very first gesneriad I saw was *Heppiella ulmifolia* – a scandent, red-flowered sort of creeping plant that covered some of the hillsides along the road. We all took many photos of this first gesneriad of the trip. It may be a weed – it's everywhere – but like your first love, it is special because it was the first. We also saw *Kohleria villosa*, with mottled leaves and an intense red flower, the hairy-stemmed *K. spicata*, and *Drymonia chiribogana* with its large two-toned leaves.

Various species showing some of the variety of red leaf-back types in *Columnea*: A. *Columnea purpurimarginata,* B. *Columnea fimbricalyx,* C. *Columnea eburnea*

Then it was on to *Columnea* heaven. (I grow under lights so I have gravitated towards smaller plants and have not grown Columneas, but this trip turned me into a Columneaphile.) We saw *Columnea angustata, C. eburnea, C. mastersonii, C. medicinalis, C. picta*, and *C. spathulata* in just one day. If you like red leaves, then you will fall in love with a number of Columneas, choosing from embarrassingly red undersides, completely saturated, bruised, spotted, blotched, peppered, red-margined, tipped and dripping. We saw lots of non-gesneriad plants, too, like pitcairnias, epidendrums, oncidiums, and giant-leaved gunneras galore.

After traveling all day, we arrived near Chiriboga in the Bosque Protector Rio Guajalito at the Biological Research Station where we stayed for the next two nights. Our host was Vlastimil Zak, a friendly and knowledgeable professor who divides his time each month between this remote and primitive location and the University San Francisco de Quito.

The evening, like every future evening, was devoted to preserving and pressing plants. This was the first time we could look at and carefully study our new finds. All the plants were laid out on the floor, sometimes creating large stacks of plant material that were to be preserved between sheets of newspaper, in alcohol, or in silica gel. The group was divided into teams.

Charlene Marietti and I were placed under the knowledgeable and experienced eyes of Michael Riley who showed us the proper way to press plants and preserve each specimen in a way that shows as many parts of the plant as possible.

Sleeping arrangements at the research station were communal. All fifteen of us slept in bunks in one large room. Snoring and alarm clocks kept us all from getting a perfect night's rest.

Bunk bed accommodations for communal sleeping of 15 trip participants

DAY 3 – The trails in the area were quite steep, very slippery, and made for a grueling hike. It was like hands across South America with everyone helping each other maneuver on these perilous slopes. It would have been impossible without Wellington boots. Calf deep in mud, each of us had to put a lot of energy into just pulling one foot out to take the next step – all of which produced a near endless amount of sucking and farting noises. We sounded like a parade of flatulenteers. The high altitude made climbing and running all the more difficult. Plodding one step at a time was the only way to go.

Hands across Ecuador in search of gesneriads

One day we followed our guide through an impenetrable thicket as he cut a new trail with his machete. Another day we tried various stream crossings over slippery rocks. I'll never forget the day many of us crossed over a stream by walking on a fallen log. My balance is not good to begin with, and I didn't want to risk getting hurt by falling into the rocky water. I waited till I thought everyone had passed and then slid over the log on my butt – infantile, but safe. I glanced back and saw one of the guides surveying the situation. I smiled when he also used the seat of his pants to get by.

We saw and collected many gesneriads. There were truly spectacular *Columnea* species like *C. strigosa* with its dangling yellow-orange flowers and *C. medicinalis* with leaf fans that looked like Indian war bonnets with red-tipped feathers. *Kohleria affinis* was dripping with flowers in a great color combination of pink, white and mint green with spots. We also found three species of *Gasteranthus* including *G. glaber, G. magentatus*, and *G. quitensis*. Not everything was small, cute and suitable for my light cart. This included *Glossoloma subglabrum*, which was shrubby and about my height.

DAY 4 – I got up early and went on a 6 a.m. bird walk. The binoculars also came in handy when a gesner high in the trees was spotted and needed closer inspection. A morning lecture and walk led by a guy working on reforestation enlightened us about the plight of the land. (This piece of land had been clear-cut and replanted only two years ago.)

After saying goodbye to our host and thanking him for his hospitality, we drove along the old Quito/Santo Domingo road between Chiriboga and La Palma and wormed our way back to Quito. We collected many gesneriads along the way including *Drymonia collegarum, Gasteranthus mutabilis* and a number of species of *Glossoloma* (*G. herthae, G. oblongicalyx, G. subglabrum*), and *Columnea kucyniakii*. We also collected begonias, monninas, pepperomias, fuchsias, tropaeolums, utricularias, and violas before heading back for another busy night of processing plants.

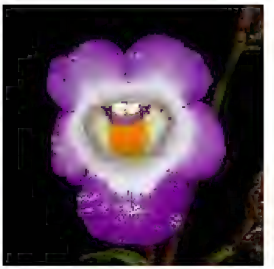
DAY 5 – Our first stop heading out of Quito again was Mitad del Mundo, the middle of the world. We didn't try to balance an egg on a pinhead, but we did pose for a group photo with each of us having one foot on either side of the Equator. The scenery driving along was incredible. The day was very hot and dry, and the terrain barren with treeless mountains.

Most of us worried about infections from less than ideal sanitary conditions and abstained from drinking tap water, using ice in drinks, and eating salads or precut fruits. Our leader, who did not adhere to such restrictions, appeared to be invincible. Although the students also drank the fruit juices made with tap water, most of us made beer and wine the beverages of choice.

Having fun straddling the Equatorial line in the middle of the world

Neomortonia rosea

Cremosperma castroanum



Monopyle macrocarpa

Kohleria species

Drymonia tenuis

Besleria species

Columnea tenella

Diastema species

Glossoloma harlequinoides

Nomopyle dodsonii

Gasteranthus calcaratus

Our next destination was near Lita in northwestern Ecuador where the habitat (at about 1600 meters above sea level) was cloud and lowland rain forest. We did some roadside botanizing and stopped when something caught our attention. Again we saw, photographed, and collected many gesneriads including a number of *Drymonia* species. One of my favorites was *D. coriacea*, a sub-woody epiphyte with orange calyces and bracts with yellow and red lobes. Also impressive was *D. rhodoloma* with its succulent leaves and green calyces with purple venation.

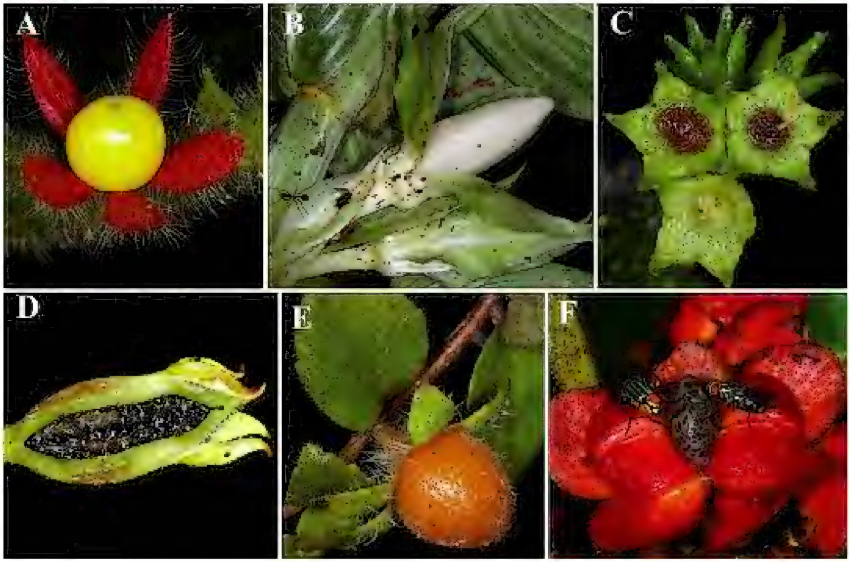
We arrived at our camp, Siete Cascadas, and found the atmosphere perfect with spacious outdoor, thatch-covered roof areas for us to spread out our huge collections of plants, organize, preserve, and press them.

DAY 6 – Lita receives about 5 meters of rain per year and is one of the wettest areas in Ecuador. We were fortunate that when it did rain, it was mostly at night, or there was just mist during the day. Only once did we have to put our cameras in plastic bags. We went to areas near San Lorenzo in the Province of Esmeraldas to check out patches of forest surrounded by cow pastures. Accompanying us were two guides from Fundación Sirua (<www.sirua.org>), a non-profit group dedicated to community conservation and sustainable development.

We collected soooo many plants, including *Gasteranthus calcaratus, Columnea rubricalyx, C. sulcata, C. medicinalis, C. eburnea, C. angustata, C. lehmannii, C. dissimilis, C. picta, C. purpurimarginata, C. pulchra, Glossoloma* cf. *panamense, G. sprucei, G. harlequinoides, Monopyle sodiroana, Napeanthus,* and so many, many more.

We also found a number of smaller-sized plants. The frilly pink and white flower of *Neomortonia rosea* caught everyone's attention as did the purple and white flower of *Monopyle macrocarpa*. And the collection of *Diastema scabrum* was just enough to make a dainty corsage. The thickness and sheer bulk of *Drymonia turrialvae* (with its reddish-orange calyces and bracts and cream-white corollas) really stood out, as did *Drymonia killipii*. *Glossoloma sprucei* was a visual treat with lots of red, orange and yellow.

Mist over Ecuadorian mountains



Various fruit types: A. Indehiscent globose berry of *Columnea tenella*. B. Indehiscent elongate berry of *Columnea medicinalis*. C. Capsules of *Cremosperma* species. D. Dorsally dehiscent capsule of *Monopyle macrocarpa*. E. Laterally compressed berry of *Neomortonia rosea*. F. Fleshy bivalved capsule of *Drymonia coriacea*.

Thanks to Carolyn Ripps' constant searching and persistent reminders to the others, seed from a number of species was collected to add to The Gesneriad Society Seed Fund.

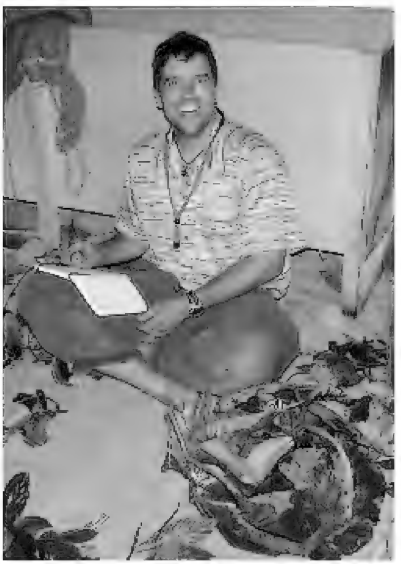
After returning to Siete Cascadas, I took a cold shower while still wearing my very dirty clothes to wash the mud off. Dinner and another long night of processing followed.

DAY 7 – We drove along the highway between Durango and Alto Tambo. The plan was to take a train ride on an abandoned rail line to some remote areas, but there were some local political problems which resulted in cancellation of the train ride. Even so, it turned out to be a GREAT day. After slogging through foot-thick mud trails for several days, I decided not to take the 20-minute to 3-hour (usually 4-hour) hike along the trails with our leader and joined the other plant-hunting group staying near the road. At one point while walking along the road, I decided to take a side trail. It was not muddy at first, but I was soon again thick in mud – but finding specimens. Jeanne joined me when I shouted out to her that there were good plants here – but I saved the best for last to share. It was a beautiful and eye-catching *Columnea* species growing in a crotch of a low-lying tree. The inflorescence was covered with hairs: red, yellow, white and a bit of orange. It had a white calyx with white lobes and a tubular corolla. The flower was erect, yellow with red lobes. Jeanne thought it was something special.

When I brought my treasured find out to the road, everyone wanted to photograph it. Later in the day when John saw it, he said he had never seen

such a plant. It could be new to science. WOW! INCREDIBLE! They talked about the luck of virgins. (Yeah, that's me – this being my first gesneriad plant collecting trip.) John went back to the area to find more specimens. He predicted that the entire forest in this area would be gone in ten years.

We also saw, photographed, and collected many other gesneriads. I liked the intense color of *Glossoloma harlequinoides*, and *Columnea rubricalyx* was very lovely with its reddish pink undersides. Frilly orange and white balls lined the stems of *Columnea fimbricalyx*.



Scenes from the evening plant processing sessions: John writing in his field book while surrounded by piles of plants being sorted; Stephen happily pressing a specimen of the exciting new *Columnea* species he found.

DAY 8 – We began the day with another great breakfast and cantaloupe juice. Our first stop was a tour of a 10,000 hectare native plant nursery operated by Fundación Sirua. We learned about planting *Theobroma* (cacao) trees that grow in the shade of rain forests and the importance of planting rubber trees, which create an enormous amount of leaf litter and shade, as well as host trees for epiphytes. There was also a nursery for *Chusquea* (bamboo), plants used by butterflies, and a butterfly farm.

A short bus ride and more hikes along the road and into the forest enabled us to find a beautiful white *Monopyle* species. One plant I could not get enough of was *Columnea filifera*. It has large green leaves with semi-transparent sections that had the appearance of red stained-glass windows with heavy leaded glass floating in air. (Not to be carried away with the beauteous wonders of nature, our learned botanist then introduced us to the olfactory sensations of the commonly called fart plant that is in the genus *Schradera* in the family Rubiaceae.)

Later we crossed to a little island where we saw a smallish *Columnea bilabiata* high up in a tree. John was able to collect it using the aerial pruning

poles. Then we crossed the stream to another island. Despite our Wellies, some of us sank too deep and had to empty water from our boots. To get back to the mainland, most of us crossed on a rickety suspension bridge.

Although our group of 15 could get spread out, I found it important to hang close to John. After years of field work, John's eyes are trained to spot that lone gesner in the tangle of jungle growth amidst the undergrowth puzzle of plant parts.

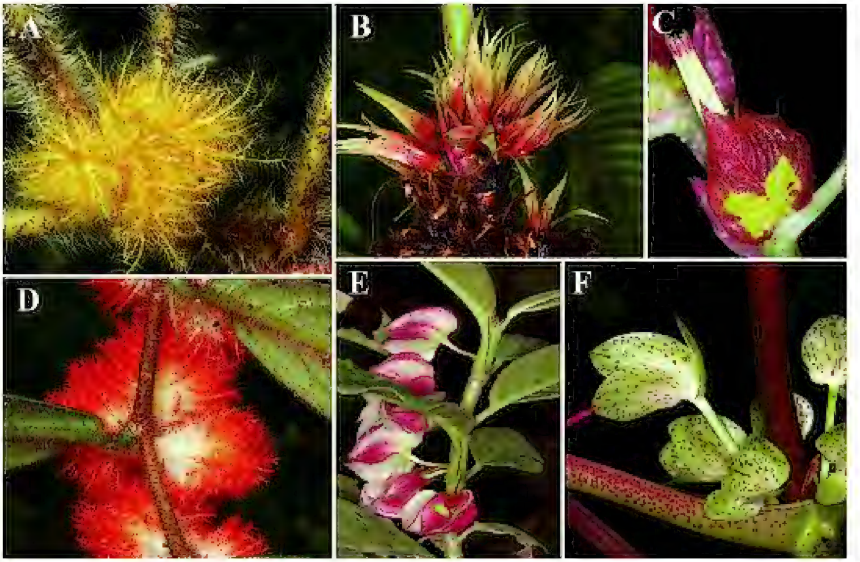
Our local guide, who was with us for a few days, also knew her plants well and had a discerning eye for finding them. And she was extremely sure footed, often positioning herself to help us cross streams – sometimes with her young daughter in one arm and her machete in the other.

An interesting eating experience in Ecuador was from the tree *Inga edulis*, also known as the ice cream bean tree. The tree was huge, but one of our local guides climbed it and used his machete to hack off some of the twisted 3-foot long, green, hard-ridged pods. They were easy to split open, and inside were large brown beans covered with what looked like pure white wet cotton – a soft, silky smooth, flavorful delicacy.

Bill enjoying a taste of the ice cream bean flesh while John and our guides hold more pods for the group to enjoy

DAY 9 – After a breakfast of chunky cheese sandwiches, instant coffee and delicious mandarin orange juice, we got back on the road in our quest for more new plants. The morning included hikes along the San Lorenzo/Ibarra Highway visiting remnant patches of primary forest. *Cremosperma nobile* was one of my favorites with its beautiful, dark-green, bullate leaves with a lighter central vein and white flower. We also found *Columnea purpurimarginata* with red-tipped and margined leaves, *C. rubriacuta* with leaf undersides of solid red, *C. tenella*, and a number of species of B*esleria, Cremosperma, Drymonia, Glossoloma, Kohleria, Monopyle,* and *Paradrymonia*. In addition to collecting gesners, we added anthuriums, pipers, triolenas, and solanums to our collecting bags.

After returning to camp on our final collecting day, we donated our boots to locals, made sure everything was packed away, took several group



Decorative calyces: A. *Glossoloma sprucei*. B. *Paradrymonia* species. C. *Columnea rubriacuta*. D. *Columnea fimbricalyx*. E. *Drymonia killipii*. F. *Drymonia* species.

photos, said our good-byes, boarded our bus, and headed back toward Quito over some rather bouncy roads. We stayed overnight in Otavalo (about 2 hours north of Quito) at the Hostel Valle del Amanacer with its lovely, plant-filled courtyard. After a nice dinner at an old pizzeria in town, it was time for more plant work back at the hotel. It was a very romantic setting that evening processing our large collection of plants with trees, fireplaces and stone stair-ways leading to second floor porches with more flowering plants and vines everywhere. To see better, we used flashlights and head-lights.

DAY 10 – Otavalo is known for its Saturday market and the "Otavaleños," as the locals are called, certainly know how to put on a show. A cacophony of sounds (human and animal), multiple rainbows of brilliant colors, endless sensations of textures, and enough smells to overwhelm even the most experienced nose await those who are fortunate enough to travel there.

Our first stop was the Mercado de Animales, the animal market. It was like being on a Hollywood studio set during a very busy filming schedule. There were ladies wearing felt hats with bags of guinea pigs, piglets and roosters in pillow cases, a variety of cows, goats galore, sheep, massive bulls at play, rabbits, chickens, ducks, and even cats and dogs – all for sale. At one point we found ourselves among a group of young angelic-looking guys holding their fierce-looking fighting cocks waiting for action.

Then it was off to Mercado Artesanal, the handicraft market, to shop for gifts to take home to all the folks caring for our gesneriads. There were near-endless piles of brightly colored textiles including blankets, table-covers, tapestries, handbags, hammocks, gloves, ski masks, and more, plus eye-

catching jewelry, ceramics and anything else you could imagine. The colorful Tigua-style primitive paintings and the carved *Tagua* palm seeds (vegetable ivory nuts) were big hits.

We then drove back to the National Herbarium in Quito to continue our work. We checked and rechecked John's list of collected plants with his computer list trying to ensure that all the plants were accounted for. We even had to check his journal entries. (It was exciting to read that he had written WOW! on June 3 after describing the *Columnea* I had found.)

DAY 11 – Most of our last full day in Ecuador was devoted to working at the National Herbarium. John gave us another quick tour, showed us some beautifully mounted historical specimens from the collection, and assigned us to various tasks. Among them were untying bundles of pressed specimens and checking them for dampness. Those that were not quite dry – especially those with succulent leaves and stems – had to be sandwiched between 12"×14" sheets of corrugated aluminum and more cardboard again. These were stacked and then belted tightly together with nylon straps. To get an extra snug fit, John stood on each bundled stack while someone tightened the straps. Once the stacks were put into the hot air dryer, our work there was finally done.

John had planned for our farewell banquet to be held at a restaurant high up on the side of a mountain on the outskirts of Quito where we could enjoy the city lights that stretched out all over the valley. The food was good and the atmosphere excellent, but the sense of accomplishment was over the top.

Back at the National Herbarium in Quito completing the processing of information and specimens from this very productive expedition

Smiling faces at the farewell dinner: Susan Grose, Charlene Marietti, Stephen Maciejewski, and Julie Mavity-Hudson … no longer "gesneriad rain forest virgins"

DAY 12 (Monday, June 8) – We got up before dawn to pack and load everything into our bus one last time and head to the airport for our very early flights back home. The Gesneriad Research Expedition had come to an end.

CONCLUSION – Going to Ecuador in the year 2009 coincided with the 150th anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt's death and was very special to me. Humboldt is not only considered the scientific discoverer of the New World but is the father of ecology. To follow, even briefly, in his footsteps, to see what he saw in Ecuador more than 200 years before, and to collect plants as he did, helped me relate to the enormous difficulties that this naturalist encountered in his quest for knowledge. It made history come alive.

Many of the gesneriads that I had known prior to this trip were small plants suitable for light stands. But in Ecuador we saw and collected many large-sized specimens. I no longer think of gesneriads as only tiny, fuzzy, delicate things as I now know that they can be tall, succulent, and bulky plants.

In all, we made 234 gesneriad collections in 16 genera with some specimens still to be identified. Thank you to everyone in the group, with special thanks to Jeanne Katzenstein and John L. Clark who made the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition possible, to all of our local guides, and to our driver, Celfi, who kept us safe.

If you ever get the opportunity to go on one of these excursions, don't hesitate. Jump at the opportunity. You'll have memories for a lifetime.

Color photos in Ecuador by John L. Clark, Stephen Maciejewski, and Julie Mavity-Hudson; color composites by John L. Clark; black and white photos by Stephen Maciejewski, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Jeanne Katzenstein, Lena Klintberg, Susan Grose, and Carolyn Ripps.

Additions to Hybrid Seed List 4Q09:

Aeschynanthus "Thai Pink"
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Sinningia (*iarae* × *cardinalis* compact) × self
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Back to Basics: Saucer and Wick Watering

Dale Martens <dalemartens@mchsi.com>
Sherrard, Illinois, USA

During the Publications Committee meeting at our last convention in Silver Spring, I mentioned it would be nice to have a column in this journal written by a variety of people on the basics of growing gesneriads as it would benefit those who are new and learning about gesneriads. It was also mentioned that experienced growers often find something interesting in these types of articles. Everyone agreed it was a good idea; and since I was the one who brought it up, I was encouraged to start writing!

This first column will discuss saucer and wick watering. Most of us use anywhere from 1/8 tsp to 1/4 tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water and give our plants a constant feed of nutrients. A future column will discuss fertilizers in depth. When I started growing gesneriads, I used saucers under individual pots. The reason for this was to have more control over how wet the soil was as well as to keep down the chances of spreading unwanted "critters" which can happen in community trays. There is no rule as to how often to water plants. A lot depends on the environment. In the winter my home has low humidity due to the furnace being on, and I have to water more often or watch the reservoirs more carefully to make sure they are not empty. In the spring when I have more flowers, I find the plants to be very thirsty. In fact, when I go on vacation, I remove all flowers and buds, otherwise the plants' roots will be bone dry in no time. When watering plants in saucers, be careful that the saucer doesn't have water sitting in it an hour later as most of our gesneriads prefer a good drink, but not soaking wet roots. If the plant has had prolonged drought, you will see that the soil has pulled away from the pot. If you water from the top, the water will run down the sides of the pot and quickly into the saucer, not wetting the root ball. In that case, fill the saucer with water and after an hour see if there is any water standing in the saucer. If there isn't any water, add more water and check in another hour. As soon as an hour has passed, pour out the excess water. If the root ball did not expand to fill in the gap between it and the pot, then you'll need to repot the plant.

Wick-watering container

Because I often travel, the majority of my plants have wicks and sit on reservoirs so that I can be absent from 2 to 5 weeks depending on the reservoir size. A reservoir is a container that holds water and has two holes cut in the lid. You can purchase them in pint or quart size or make your own using recycled containers such as margarine tubs. The average reservoir (pint or quart) is 3 inches tall. Wicking material needs to be acrylic or nylon (never cotton as it may rot) and cut about six inches in length for a 3-inch pot and eight inches for a 4- to 6-inch pot. I find that the soil used for the wick method must be very light so the roots are not soaking wet. I happen to use a variety of commercial soils, and I use one part commercial soil and one part perlite as my mix. I put half an inch of moist perlite in the bottom of the pot. That way if I overfill the reservoir, the perlite helps to keep the soil from over-soaking. When I pot, I use very wet wicks that have been soaking in water. About 3 inches of wick will hang into the reservoir and the rest is circled up through the pot with the tip being under at least half an inch of soil at the top of the pot. Place the newly potted plant on the lid of the reservoir with the wet wick hanging into the reservoir. Add enough water so that it overflows a bit and the lid is wet. This way the wicking action will begin. Check on the pot in a week to make sure it is wicking. I do not allow the reservoirs to completely dry. I add water while there is still an inch of water in the reservoir. Otherwise the wick might dry too much. For two months, I add water without emptying the reservoir. After two months, I remove the plant and leach the soil with clear water. Then the lid and reservoir must be cleaned.

I found the perfect sandwich baggie to line my reservoirs so I only need to clean the lid and toss the baggie. The best baggie size for me is 6-3/4" wide × 8" tall. Put the baggie in the reservoir, add water to within an inch of the top of the reservoir, and then fold down the sides of the baggie around the top of the reservoir. Put the lid on.

One of Dale's light stands filled with gesneriads growing happily on their reservoirs

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Views in an Ecuadorian rain forest: Looking up you might see a beautiful specimen of *Columnea medicinalis*; looking down you might see a patch of *Kohleria villosa*.